

# Hart News



The newspaper of Hart District Council

Winter 2021



## Countryside Service

Green flags, community garden and winter works updates from our rangers **pages 4 & 5**



## Climate change update

Read our two-page special feature on climate change **pages 10 & 11**



## Health and Wellbeing

Find out about Here for Hart and wellbeing support for young people **pages 12 & 13**

## Next step for the Local Plan review



Homes in Edenbrook

During the Cabinet meeting in September, councillors unanimously agreed to the preparation of a range of business cases which may deliver savings, as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the Council.

It was agreed as part of this debate, that an additional business case be explored to bring forward the next revision of the Local Plan.

Speaking about the discussion Cllr James Radley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance at Hart District Council, said: "During the Cabinet meeting I moved a motion to generate a business plan for the cost benefit analysis of starting the

preparation for the next Local Plan renewal.

"A Local Plan will consider the various options to deliver whatever level of future housing growth the government calculates for Hart. We will need to evaluate the benefits and issues with all such options. A new settlement can continue to be investigated along with other options such as urban intensification and urban extension as part of this process.

"The Council, in consultation with residents, can then make an informed judgement as to what solution or solutions best meet the needs of the people of this district in

addressing the housing demand set by central government."

Whilst the business case is being considered, all activity relating to the Garden Community project will be paused. All documents relating to the Garden Community, including the communities' survey and technical assessments, will be published over the coming months.

All business cases will be brought back to the November Cabinet meeting for discussion.

For more information about council meetings and to view the meeting papers, please visit [www.hart.gov.uk/council-meetings](http://www.hart.gov.uk/council-meetings)

## Community Services: a snapshot of its success

The Community Services team has been working hard to continue to deliver services to Hart residents and has recently published its annual report from April 2020 - March 2021. Key highlights are:

- 150 affordable homes delivered
- Provided advice to 288 individual households
- 45 families were prevented from becoming homeless
- £645,000 spent on disabled facilities grants, helping residents to live comfortably in their homes
- Supported 52 victims of domestic abuse
- 24 residents engaged with the Skills Cafe and three of those gained employment
- 323 anti-social behaviour complaints were handled
- Nine vulnerable persons or safeguarding referrals have been processed
- Four school educational programmes have been delivered

For more information on services visit [www.hart.gov.uk](http://www.hart.gov.uk)

**No changes to waste and recycling collections this Christmas - read more on page 7**



01252 622122



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As well as our climate change special feature, keep an eye out for other climate change articles throughout this edition



### Over £95,000 raised for good causes

Since Hart Lottery was launched in July 2017 over £95,000 has been raised for local good causes. Each time a £1 lottery ticket is purchased 60p of this cost goes towards a chosen local good cause.

There are currently 77 causes, ranging from school and nursery PTAs, to clubs, voluntary organisations and interest groups for young and old, as well as those which help people with medical or special needs.

Buying a lottery ticket is safe and easy via [www.hartlottery.co.uk](http://www.hartlottery.co.uk)

All supporters get the chance to win prizes of up to £25,000. Every ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize every week!



# Council crack down on fly-tipping

Protecting public health and our environment has never been more important. The Council enforcement officers are playing their part to ensure fly-tippers are caught and prosecuted.

Fly-tipping is the term given to the illegal dumping of waste and is a serious criminal offence. Offenders risk fines of up to £5,000 and/or five years' imprisonment. Residents can also be taken to court if they pay someone else to dispose of their rubbish which is later fly-tipped.

One such householder was fined £549 in July after her waste was dumped at Clare Park Residential Home in Crondall. She had paid a passing van driver £50 to remove it without checking he was properly licensed to do so.

Last month, a Yateley resident was successfully prosecuted for dumping a fridge and a freezer at Blackbushe Business Park after he was caught on CCTV. He was fined £948.

Enforcement officers also work with partner agencies checking commercial vehicles hold waste carrier licences and/or scrap licences. In August, drivers were



Household goods fly-tipped in Hart

questioned along the A30 near to and in Hartley Wintney as part of a crackdown on fly-tipping and environmental crime. One vehicle was not registered to carry waste and seven drivers were given traffic offences advice.

Cllr Alan Oliver, Cabinet Member for Environment at Hart District Council, said: "Fly-tipping is a serious criminal offence and we are committed to tackling this issue head on.

"Dumped illegal waste blights our countryside and the removal and proper disposal of such waste is often at the taxpayers' expense. We are very proactive in our work

to catch fly-tippers and we work closely with our partners to ensure that we keep Hart green and clean."

If you see fly-tipping taking place, please report this to the Council by calling **01252 622122**, giving details of the incident including the location, vehicle registration and description of the person(s). If you come across dumped waste, please report it online at <https://hart.fixmystreet.com>

Residents can easily check if someone is a registered waste carrier by checking their name or licence number details at [www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/flytipping](http://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/flytipping)

## Community Safety team leads on reducing anti-social behaviour

The Council has successfully taken people to court following 18 months of persistent and extreme anti-social behaviour in a property on Betjeman Walk in Yateley.

The Closure Order, issued by Basingstoke Magistrates' Court, means that nobody is allowed to enter or remain at the address for the next three months without permission of authorised officers. If they do, they will be committing a criminal offence and can be arrested.

The Council applied for the Order following many concerns raised about suspected drug activity and associated anti-social behaviour. Behaviours included:

- Regular noisy parties
- Excessive disturbance to neighbours through constant visitors all through the night
- Cannabis usage that created odours permeating surrounding properties
- A level of security measures at the property which created a sense of fear and intimidation to neighbours.



Speaking about the Closure Order, Cllr Stuart Bailey, Cabinet Member for Communities at Hart District Council, said: "I'm pleased that we have been able to obtain this Closure Order. This is a great result that will make a significant impact upon surrounding neighbours.

"I hope this Order sends out a message that the Council will not tolerate anti-social behaviour in the district."

At a time when Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), particularly through County Lines, is increasingly

being recognised as a major factor behind crime in communities, it is more important than ever to report any suspected drug activity or associated behaviours. Such information can often assist in the disruption of suspected Organised Criminal Gang (OCG) operations.

Hart Neighbourhood Inspector, Jennifer Lovegrove, said: "We are pleased that this Order has been secured and hope it provides some reassurance to the local community that we, along with our partners, will take action and use all available powers to address issues affecting them."

The Council is reminding residents of the importance of not suffering in silence and instead reporting anti-social behaviour on 101 or via their online reporting tool: [www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb/report-antisocial-behaviour](http://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb/report-antisocial-behaviour)

For information about Community Safety services provided by Hart District Council, please visit [www.hart.gov.uk/community-safety](http://www.hart.gov.uk/community-safety)

# Helping us to go green at Fleet Pond



Fleet Pond's northern path, next to Fleet train station, is shortly set to close for five months, with intermittent closures to the train station access footpath. Commuters are advised to avoid using the Nature Reserve access to the train station wherever possible and to find an alternative route.

The project, managed by Hart District Council, aims to create a more connected environment, this will improve walking and cycling links to Fleet's railway station helping us to stay active and to reduce car journeys. It 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 phase one which is Hartland Village to Fleet.

Cllr David Neighbour, Leader of Hart District Council, said: "These works will cause short-term disruption over the winter period, and we apologise for any inconvenience caused. However, we hope the long-term benefits will far outweigh the short-term effects, creating a much safer multi-user access path that can be used for many years to come."

Whilst the northern path is closed, pedestrian access to the pond and station will be via the picnic area entrance, following the yellow route to the east. Commuters should note that using this diversion route to access the train station could take an extra 40 minutes on foot and should therefore plan accordingly.



Notices will make residents aware when the train station access is closed, so please look out for and adhere to onsite signage. The Phase one corridor construction works will last until Spring 2022. Find up-to-date information about the path improvement project at [www.hart.gov.uk/fleet-pond-corridor](http://www.hart.gov.uk/fleet-pond-corridor)

## Supporting Afghan evacuees

As part of the national Afghan resettlement scheme, the Council has successfully placed two families to support locally employed people, in recognition of their commitment and bravery shown supporting UK forces.

Alongside this, Hart has been working with Hampshire County Council, the NHS and other partners to help refugees from Afghanistan who fled the country following the recent crisis.

**Donations:** If you wish to donate an item, visit the Community First website which is co-ordinating collections. [www.cfirst.org.uk/donating-to-help-afghan-evacuees](http://www.cfirst.org.uk/donating-to-help-afghan-evacuees)

## Garden waste collection update

As many of you will be aware, the Council had to suspend its garden waste collection service. In common with many other Councils in the area, such as Basingstoke and Deane, Surrey Heath, Woking and Wokingham, in October, we had to take the difficult decision to temporarily suspend collections as a result of the impact of the national HGV driver shortage.

This decision was not taken lightly, and the Council understands that this is frustrating for customers, and it apologises for the inconvenience caused.

The suspension has allowed our contractors, Serco, to target driver resources to protect core household waste and recycling collection services.

The Council has committed to compensate customers by way of an extension of their subscriptions for three months (six collections). For those customers who have chosen not to renew, a refund is available for the weeks we have been unable to provide a service.

The Council hopes that the service will resume towards the end of November. For garden waste updates, please visit [www.hart.gov.uk/garden-waste](http://www.hart.gov.uk/garden-waste)

## Benches, flowers, leaflets, and equipment for events to support the recovery of our high streets



Odiham High Street

The Council received a number of suggested projects and Cabinet has approved the following:

- The temporary installation of up to three parklets on wider pavement sections of Fleet Road
- The creation of temporary picnic areas in Odiham
- The creation of temporary picnic areas in Yateley
- Production of a leaflet promoting local businesses in Odiham and North Warnborough
- Planting wildflower areas in Yateley
- Equipment to support community events

The Council is working with the parish and town councils and the BID to secure Government approval.



Picnic bench in Odiham

The Government's Welcome Back Fund has provided councils across England with a share of £56 million from the European Regional Development Fund to support the safe return to high streets and help build back better from the pandemic. Hart District Council was allocated £86,003.

Parish and town councils, Business Improvement District (BID) and other relevant stakeholders were given the opportunity to identify projects that would support the safe return to high streets across the district.

Don't forget to read our biodiversity article on page 10

Climate change article

## Electric tools for the Rangers

The Countryside Rangers are looking to drive down their carbon footprint and have taken one of their first steps towards becoming a more sustainable service.

The decision was made to replace older, fuelled equipment with battery-powered equivalents. The new range includes trimmers, leaf blowers, hedge cutters, multi-tools, as well as lawn mowers and chainsaws.

Whilst battery-powered tools are good for many jobs at the moment, they cannot replace all fuel-powered tools. For the toughest jobs fuelled equipment may still be needed but as time passes, we hope the battery-powered tools will slowly become the norm.

For the countryside staff it has added another dimension to their conservation efforts, reducing pollution, CO2 as well as noise in the great outdoors.



## Are you a catering provider looking for a new challenge?

Hart Countryside Services has an exciting opportunity this winter, to run refreshment services on some of the district's green spaces.

A two-year trial will take place for two small concession units at the beautiful Bramshot Farm Country Park and Edenbrook Country Park.

If you are interested in bidding, please visit our webpage at [www.hart.gov.uk/procurement](http://www.hart.gov.uk/procurement)

## Hart's green spaces, recognised as some of the best in the world

For the tenth year in a row, Hart's parks and green spaces have retained the coveted Green Flag, an international quality rating setting the benchmark standard for the management of outdoor spaces.

The award-winning areas are Elvetham Heath Nature Reserve, Hartley Wintney Central Commons and Fleet Pond Nature Reserve.

Being awarded the Green Flag is no mean feat. Green spaces are judged against a range of criteria from maintenance and cleanliness, environmental management and biodiversity, landscape and heritage through to community involvement. The award is testament to the hard work of both the Countryside Service team and many volunteers who maintain these sites for the benefit of Hart residents.

Commenting on retaining the award Adam Green, Hart Countryside Manager, said: "Over the past ten years our Countryside Service has considerably expanded its portfolio and we are now managing around 18 countryside sites.

"I am really pleased that during this time we have managed to retain our prestigious Green Flag awards and hope to attain even more in the coming years for some of our newer country parks and green spaces."



Cllr Neighbour alongside Ranger Sam Kerr

Cllr David Neighbour, Leader of Hart District Council, said: "We are so lucky to have such a rich tapestry of sites on our doorstep, all of which require different and careful management to keep them as they are.

"I want to say a big thank-you to everybody who plays a part in safeguarding these special places, our countryside staff and volunteers."

To find out more about these sites including how to visit, go to [www.hart.gov.uk/countryside-nature](http://www.hart.gov.uk/countryside-nature)

## Winter works to start on our sites



Rangers working on cutting back the reed beds

For rangers or anyone working in the countryside, September to March is a busy period, that's because this is practical management season. During these months is when most of the site management works take place. You will generally see large work parties chopping and lopping, some machinery and the power tools come out during this time. Generally, works take place in these months as this is when the least disturbance to local wildlife is caused.

### So, what should you expect to see over winter?

Some people are alarmed to see Rangers cutting things down

as this is often perceived as bad for the environment. But, in fact, this is critical management and without it our sites would be much less biodiverse. That basically means that if left alone these habitats would end up supporting a limited number of species.

By rotating cuts each year, they create a varied age structure within our habitats, which benefit a great variety of different species.

Rotational reed bed cuts have already started at Edenbrook and Fleet Pond. Woodland works have also started on many of

our sites, with volunteers helping last month on Bramshot clearing Holly and haloing around the hidden veteran Oaks.

As the Countryside Service tries to improve its environmental footprint, we are exploring different options for the disposal of our green waste. Read about our new composting bays in the Green Garden article on page 5.

Why not come and learn a bit more about the specifics of reedbed, woodland and heathland management by joining in with our practical work parties? Visit [www.hart.gov.uk/volunteering](http://www.hart.gov.uk/volunteering)

# New community garden for all to use

Over the past few months, you may have noticed some activity within the fenced area next to the bike tracks at Edenbrook Country Park. Contractors have been busy creating Hart's Green Garden, an inclusive community gardening space for residents to 'Grow Together', in more ways than one.

The new garden features two unique spaces, individual plots for residents and a community gardening space with shared facilities which encourages all site users to interact and grow together.

At the top end of the site are two large composting bays, which will primarily be used by Hart's Countryside Service. This facility will provide rangers with a place to deposit the green waste which is produced from the general management of the Country Park. This will rot down into compost and the Green Garden users will be able to use the compost produced within their plots.

As you move down through the site past the individual plots and the site's new shipping container, you reach the 'Minding the Garden' shared gardening area.

In this space is a raised bed and two wheelchair accessible polytunnels and picnic benches. The circular beds will wrap around a shelter, all of which will be used in the delivery of social and therapeutic horticultural activity by Hart Voluntary Action to improve the wellbeing of Hart residents.



Finally, you come to the accessible composting toilet which will allow all users to stay outdoors for as long as they like without having to worry about getting caught short. This piece of site furniture will prove critical in supporting groups to access the outdoors with added peace of mind.

Learn more about this project at [www.hart.gov.uk/Harts-green-garden](http://www.hart.gov.uk/Harts-green-garden)

For more information about Edenbrook Country Park visit [www.hart.gov.uk/edenbrook-country-park](http://www.hart.gov.uk/edenbrook-country-park)

## Countryside jargon buster...

We regularly get questioned about the words that we use in the countryside team, so here is an explanation of some of the regular ones.

- **Scrub** – Shrubs or bushes up to 15 feet
- **Biodiversity** - the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.
- **Sapling** – A young tree
- **SSSI** – often referred to as 'Triple S I' – Site of Special Scientific Interest
- **Loppers** – Cutting tool for pruning
- **Brash** - the above-ground parts of the tree, not normally removed from site. It is usually composed of branches, the tops of trees and small dead trees
- **Haloing** - the removal of younger trees around an older tree so it's not fighting for resources.

## 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](http://www.hart.gov.uk/tenant-finder)



## Helping you stay warm this winter



No one wants to live in a cold home, but it can be hard to stay warm. Being too cold in your home can cause health problems including respiratory illnesses, heart conditions, poor blood circulation and depression.

If you are struggling with a cold home, the Hitting the Cold Spots service is here to help Hampshire residents.

For more information you can contact them by:  
**0800 804 8601**  
[staywarm@environmentcentre.com](mailto:staywarm@environmentcentre.com)  
[www.hants.gov.uk/](http://www.hants.gov.uk/)  
[socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/coldspots](http://socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/coldspots)

## New housing bidding system

The Council will be introducing a new housing bidding system in the New Year.

It will give applicants a personal account so they can log in any time to:

- View the status of their application and make changes
- Submit supporting documents
- Receive messages and letters
- Complete outstanding actions

Applicants will also be able to see all types of properties that are advertised, and bid for properties they are eligible for.

The Council will ensure that housing applicants have been contacted by letter or email to explain the new arrangements. It will contact anyone who re-applies with the outcome of their assessment, once complete.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the housing team on [housing@hart.gov.uk](mailto:housing@hart.gov.uk) and they will be happy to talk you through it further.

## £30,000 available for home adaptations

If you or someone living in your home has mobility problems, you may qualify for a Disabled Facilities Grant. This grant can go towards the cost of providing adaptations and facilities to enable the disabled person to continue living there.

An applicant must be the owner of the dwelling or a landlord may apply on behalf of a disabled tenant. To apply for a grant, you will need an assessment by an Occupational Therapist. To arrange an assessment call **0300 555 1378**

The grants are financially assessed, and the Council will arrange for this to take place following a referral from the Occupational Therapist. The Council will help with all forms, draw up plans, arrange contractors and inspect the works when they are completed.

The type of works the grant will fund include 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. The maximum grant is £30,000 with a further £30,000 of discretionary funding available in some cases.



The Council also offers Discretionary Prevention Grants. They are to be used to facilitate timely hospital discharge, reduce admission to hospitals and residential care homes and to enable vulnerable residents to remain safe and independent in their own homes. For works up to £2,000 there is no means test, but a basic assessment and recommendations will be required from a health professional. The types of work these grants may cover include modular ramping, stairlifts and heating repairs.

If you want to find out more, please call the Disabled Facilities Grant Caseworkers at Hart District Council on **01252 774111** or email [housing@hart.gov.uk](mailto:housing@hart.gov.uk)

## New affordable homes available to rent or buy



A new home in Riseley

Within the last six months we've had another busy period with the completion of 86 much needed new affordable homes within the district. These were made up of 77 homes for rent and nine for shared ownership on sites in Riseley, Yateley, Hook, and Fleet.

To bid for a rented home, applicants need to be on the Council's Housing Register [www.harthomes.org.uk](http://www.harthomes.org.uk) and to buy a shared ownership home (part-rent, part-buy) people need to register with the Help to Buy Agent 3 [www.helptobuyagent3.org.uk](http://www.helptobuyagent3.org.uk)

There are over 1,300 households registered on Hart's Housing Register looking for an affordable home for rent, and over 600 households registered on the Help to Buy Agent 3 list wanting to buy a shared ownership home within Hart. These new homes help many families find affordable housing to help them remain in the area. We

welcome the delivery of these new homes and look forward to more good quality affordable homes being provided on different sites across the district into the coming year.

The following summary shows the sites where new affordable homes for rent and shared ownership are expected to be delivered within Hart over the next few months and on into 2022.

Full information regarding expected completion dates for the affordable homes on these sites can be found on our website [www.hart.gov.uk/finding-home-hart](http://www.hart.gov.uk/finding-home-hart)

**Green Hart Park (Croudace), Hook**  
 A mix of 2 and 3 bedroom houses

**Oakwood Grange (David Wilson Homes), Hook**  
 A mix of 2 and 3 bedroom houses

**Hartland Village, Fleet**  
 Phase 1 of Hartland Village will provide a mix of 1 bedroom flats, 2 bedroom flats, and 4 x 3 bedroom houses

**Netherhouse Copse, Fleet**  
 (Known as Hareshill)  
 A number of 1 bedroom flats, 2 bedroom flats, 1 and 2 bedroom coach houses, 2 and 3 bedroom houses

**Broden Stables, Crondall**  
 This site will be delivering 2 bedroom flats, 2 and 3 bedroom houses

**Hawley Park Farm, Blackwater**  
 (Known as Ashbury Park)  
 A mix of 1 bedroom flats, 2 bedroom flats and maisonettes, 2 and 3 bedroom houses

**Rough's Cottage, Bartley Heath, North Warnborough, Rural Exception Site** –  
 This site is restricted to people with a local connection to Odiham and North Warnborough. It includes a mixture of 1 bed flats, 2 and 3 bedroom houses for rent and shared ownership and the homes are expected from April/May 2022 onwards.



A new home in Riseley

Please note: that all advertised dates are subject to change and some properties may have been let or sold prior to publication of this article.

## Food waste: the solution starts at home



The growth, transportation and sale of food uses a huge amount of water and energy, and produces greenhouse gases. That's before it even arrives in our homes.

Residents frequently ask why they can't recycle food waste. The main reasons come down to cost, emissions and disposal. However, we also know that it is a problem that can be largely avoided by all of us.

Top tips on storing food, leftovers and freezing can be found at [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)

### THE FACTS:

- If food waste were a country it would be the third largest producer of greenhouse gases after USA and China
- At home in the UK we waste 6.6 million tonnes of food a year. 4.5 million tonnes of this is edible
- 900,000 bananas are wasted in UK homes every day
- If everyone in the UK stopped wasting food at home for just one day, it would have the same impact on greenhouse gases as planting half a million trees.

These facts are staggering but there is lots we can do about it.

### TOP TIPS:

- **Banana milkshake** - When a banana is looking a little too ripe for your liking, peel it and pop it in the freezer. Put your frozen banana and some milk into a blender and hey presto!
- **Start with small portions** - It can be really hard to know how much to cook especially when you are feeding a family. If you have made too much, make sure you start with small portions and set some aside rather than it ending up in the bin as plate scrapings.
- **Don't eat it? Then don't buy it!** - We hear people say over and over again that they buy and waste the same thing each week. It could be good intentions that make you waste that lettuce every week, but break the habit and save yourself some cash at the same time.
- **Shop small** – If you have the luxury of passing a shop regularly then picking up what you need as you go can be a great way of keeping within use by dates and saving waste.

From that yogurt lurking at the back of the fridge to that banana in the fruit bowl getting riper by the day, do something about it to help our environment and your pocket.

## No changes to collections this Christmas

We can confirm that this year no changes will take place to your scheduled waste and recycling collections over the Christmas and New Year period. Garden waste collections will take a two week break as usual from Monday 27 December, restarting Monday 10 January 2022. For general information about waste and recycling services visit [www.hart.gov.uk/waste-recycling](http://www.hart.gov.uk/waste-recycling)

## The dangers of batteries in a bin

Over the past year we have seen fires start at recycling sorting and transfer sites caused by batteries. **Batteries must not be placed in either your waste or recycling bin.** All loose batteries must be taken back to recycling points within shops. Batteries concealed in items that cannot be removed should be taken to Household Waste and Recycling Centres.

# We want your plastic bottles....

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



[www.hart.gov.uk/waste-recycling](http://www.hart.gov.uk/waste-recycling)



HART LEISURE CENTRE & FROGMORE LEISURE CENTRE



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# Everyone Active: Leisure update

After a successful and safe reopening following the UK lockdown, Everyone Active and Hart District Council have continued to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community.

## Successful reopening of pools

After a short period of closure, Everyone Active is pleased to announce the final safety works to the pools at Hart Leisure Centre are completed.

Those looking to sign up to the centre's award-winning swim scheme, should speak to a friendly member of the Everyone Active team.

## Frogmore Leisure Centre open weekend

Last year, Frogmore Leisure Centre underwent a major £400,000 refurbishment to upgrade the centre's facilities and provide a better experience for members.

In September, Everyone Active was finally able to celebrate the new facilities by hosting a free open weekend at the centre for the whole family to enjoy. A range of free indoor and outdoor activities were available to the public over the fun-filled weekend, such as gym challenges, exercise classes, gymnastics taster sessions, a bouncy castle and balloon modelling.

The local community joined in with gym challenges alongside former Olympic athlete Colin Jackson and



Olympic athlete Colin Jackson

learnt football tricks with freestyle footballer Steve Gray. The event proved to be a great success with an abundance of new joiners at the centre.

## Community work

Alongside Frogmore Leisure Centre's family fun open weekend, Everyone Active has been involved with several community events over the summer months. The team supported Yateley's music festival 'Gig on the Green,' a spectacular weekend of fun, music and entertainment for the whole family, showcasing local talent, and Hart District Council's countryside walk.

## Sporting Champions success

The Sporting Champions Scheme has continued to provide support and mentoring to several athletes in Hart, including triple Paralympic medallist Lucy Shuker who plays wheelchair tennis. Lucy is currently the highest ranked woman in Britain for wheelchair tennis and recently won a silver medal at the Tokyo Paralympics in the ladies' doubles.

## Charity update

Everyone Active has been involved in several charity events, supporting a boxing event at Hart Leisure Centre in September that raised more than £22,000 for Cancer Research UK.

The same month, Hart Leisure Centre and Frogmore Leisure Centre also hosted cake sales for Macmillan Cancer Support, managing to raise more than £150 for the charity.

Since Everyone Active began their partnership with Macmillan in 2019, they have raised more than £90,000 for the charity.

## Winter activities

Everyone Active is excited to be involved in the Fleet Festivities Christmas market this winter, and Hart Leisure Centre will also be hosting a gymnastics Christmas show in December for the whole family to enjoy. For more information visit

[www.everyoneactive.com/centre/hart-leisure-centre](http://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/hart-leisure-centre)

## Looking after your mental wellbeing

The impact and experience of the past 18 months has been difficult for us all. That's why it's so important to look after our mental health and wellbeing. A new Every Mind Matters campaign helps people with their mental wellbeing by directing them to free, practical tips and advice.

At the heart of the campaign is the free, NHS-approved Mind Plan. By answering five simple questions online, adults will get a personalised mental health action plan with practical tips for helping deal with stress and anxiety, boost their mood, sleep better, and feel more in control. New research shows that 49% of adults in England said the COVID-19

pandemic had a negative impact on their mental wellbeing. And 34% said they did not know what to do to help improve their mental wellbeing.

Younger adults reported struggling the most, with 57% of 18 to 34-year-olds saying their mental wellbeing was negatively impacted by the pandemic, with 44% reporting that they did not know what to do to help.

Find out more at the Every Mind Matters website [www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters). Information about local support can be found on the Council's website [www.hart.gov.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing](http://www.hart.gov.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing)

Discover simple steps to help look after your mental wellbeing

Search Every Mind Matters



## Nurture Opportunity Growth



Come and visit our family school

Open Morning

Saturday 4th December



Yateley Manor

Tanja@yateleymanor.com

01252 405500

[www.yateleymanor.com](http://www.yateleymanor.com)

# 10 Climate change special feature

## What is climate change?

Climate change is the long-term alteration of temperature and typical weather patterns in a place. Climate change could refer to a particular location or the planet as a whole.

The Earth is now in a period of rapid climate change, with global temperatures rising.

Many people, especially scientists, are concerned about this warming. As Earth's climate continues to warm, the intensity and amount of rainfall during storms is expected to increase. Droughts and heatwaves are also expected to become more intense. When the Earth's temperature changes by one or two degrees, it can have potentially severe, irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems.

## Simple steps you can take to reduce your carbon footprint

### What day-to-day changes can you make?

- Use less water
- Turn off the lights
- Consume local and seasonal products
- Compost
- Only buy what you need
- Eliminate single-use plastic
- Instead of face-to-face work meetings, go digital and have a virtual meeting
- Cycle or walk wherever possible
- Use public transport
- Think train, not plane when planning your next holiday
- Think green whilst on holiday

### There are also some other steps you can take to reduce your carbon footprint:

#### Switch to renewables

Energy providers around the world are now offering greener tariffs. By switching to a company that provides electricity from solar, wind, or hydroelectric energy, you can reduce your household emissions and save money on your energy bills. You could even install solar panels.

#### Offset your carbon

Many airlines and travel companies now offer you the chance to offset your carbon emissions. These carbon offsets cover all kinds of incentives, such as restoring forests and making energy and transportation more efficient.

#### Change your diet

The food we eat can have a significant impact on the environment. For example, meat and dairy products require a lot of land, water and energy to produce. They also create a lot of methane, a greenhouse gas. What's more, food shipped from overseas uses a lot more resources than local produce.

#### Insulate your home

Heating your living space can be an expensive and energy-intensive process. By insulating places like your loft and walls, you can make sure your home retains heat during the winter and stays cool in summer.

#### Buy energy efficient

Electrical appliances are becoming more efficient by the year, so make sure you buy eco-friendly.

## We're halfway through our biodiversity action plan

Did you know that Hart District Council has a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

We are halfway through our updated five-year BAP which covers the period 2018-2023. So now is a good time to reflect on our achievements and actions against each category of the plan.

The BAP is essentially our plan for wildlife (plants and animals) and sets out specific actions in three broad categories to deliver biodiversity protection and enhancement across the district.

Here is how we are doing in each area so far:

### Development control and planning policy

We take part in at least 450 planning consultations per year providing biodiversity advice.

Soon we will publish a planning technical advice note for biodiversity, which will provide guidance on the process and expectations for biodiversity in planning applications.

At the end of the previous BAP period in 2017 there were 281 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation across the district. As of September 2020 there were 405.

### Site management, enhancement and monitoring

We have continued to develop our wildflower schemes across the district in partnership with parishes and residents' associations. There are now at least 25 schemes around Hart.

We support small enhancement projects, for example provision of a 'butterfly border' and bird feeders for the wildlife garden at Potley Pre-school.

We give advice to parish and town councils, external landowners and local groups to maximise biodiversity on their sites, for example how best to manage a pond or woodland, create bee and butterfly areas and where to site features such as bird and bat boxes.

We are currently working on a new management plan template for council-managed sites to standardise objectives and provide clear, measurable biodiversity targets.

We work in collaboration with local natural history and recording groups, such as Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group, Hampshire Dormouse Group and Hampshire Ornithology Society, to monitor species on our sites and



commission expert surveyors to inform management as appropriate.

We created a new wetland at Bramshot Country Park to maximise biodiversity opportunities. This will benefit a number of species such as amphibians and birds. New paths and boardwalks add visitor interest and increase accessibility and provide year-round access to this wildlife feature.

### Raising awareness of biodiversity in the district

We deliver guided walks and events such as the recent 'Big Green Week'. We give talks to local interest groups about biodiversity in Hart.

We network with the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

and Hampshire's Local Authority Ecology Forum which means we do not work in a silo. Our work interlinks and benefits neighbouring areas as well as our own.

We are only halfway through delivery, so it is not too late to get involved.

We want to hear from you, maybe you're an organisation that would like advice or help with a potential project in Hart or maybe you have some great project ideas, if you do then please email [countryside@hart.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@hart.gov.uk)

Find out more about Hart's Biodiversity Action Plan by downloading the document online at [www.hart.gov.uk/local-countryside-projects](http://www.hart.gov.uk/local-countryside-projects)

# Carbon emissions: an update from the Council

Since declaring a climate emergency in April, we've started to make progress with our target of becoming a carbon neutral authority by 2035.

Reducing our carbon emissions won't happen overnight, but we are making sure it's a golden thread throughout our operations as a council. To support this, we have started a programme of carbon literacy training for staff and councillors.

Here are some other projects we are working on:

**Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers:** We are currently going out to tender to explore introducing EV chargers in a number of council-owned car parks.

**Waste & Recycling:** We are working with Serco to reduce our carbon emissions by 32% over the life of the contract. Serco now have electric supervisor vans which they can charge at their depots.

**41 affordable homes in Edenbrook:** These have been built with solar panels and EV charge points.

**Housing:** Working in partnership with the Energy Hub, Hart successfully bid for £225,000 to insulate low-income properties, and we have submitted a further bid for the Sustainable Warm Fund. Keep an eye on our website for when this funding is available for you to apply for.

**Planning:** New developments must demonstrate a minimum of 15% reduction of the predicted energy use. We are introducing car sharing spaces in Hartland Park during phase three.

**Taxi licences:** From 2025 all new vehicle emissions must be less than 50g/km.

**Countryside:** Our rangers are using electric tools, instead of fuel-powered.

**Fleet vehicles:** We are looking into the feasibility of having zero emissions for council vehicles.

For more information on our action plan visit [www.hart.gov.uk/climate-change](http://www.hart.gov.uk/climate-change)

Hart District Council Internal Carbon Emissions 19/20 vs 20/21



LoCASE, the Low Carbon Across the South and East programme, has grants of up to £10,000 for businesses to become more profitable while protecting the environment and encouraging low carbon solutions. Targeted business support is on offer for companies which offer green or low carbon goods and services.

For more information visit <https://locase.co.uk/about>

## Clean bill of health for air quality

The district received a clean bill of health for air quality for the sixth year running in the 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report.

Air pollution continued to decline across the area in 2020 (aided in part by the pandemic) with levels below the national limit value at all measurement sites, which monitor nitrogen dioxide concentrations.

The report commended the Council for good practice and for continually monitoring testing locations to ensure any potential hotspot areas are identified.

The Council will continue to press ahead with more measures to improve air pollution, including:

- Introducing zero emission vehicles to the Council fleet
- Planting wild gardens, urban trees, living walls in car parks and green/living roofs throughout Hart
- Developing Hart's Green Grid Strategy to encourage better



sustainable transport links between settlements and public transport hubs.

Air pollution is known to be a contributory factor in heart disease and cancers. It particularly affects the elderly, children and those with existing heart and lung problems.

For more information about air quality, including our latest report, visit [www.hart.gov.uk/pollution-nuisance](http://www.hart.gov.uk/pollution-nuisance)

SAMARITANS

Here if you need us  
Talk to us we'll listen

Chris O'Donovan Photography/Samaritans

You can talk to us about anything that's troubling you. We're here if you need us.

[samaritans.org/farnborough](http://samaritans.org/farnborough)

Call free day or night on

**116 123**

Email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

A registered charity

## Money on your mind?

Seeking support early can help to prevent the situation from getting worse.

Money advice services can help you consider your options and find out what support you are entitled to.

A Citizens Advice Hart client said: "I was put on furlough and was struggling with debt and feeling overwhelmed by it all, so I got in touch with Citizens Advice Hart. They explained my options and supported me to get a Debt Relief Order.

"With their support I had over £17,000 of debts written off. They have helped me and my family to move on and make a fresh start."

Every year, the friendly, experienced team at Citizens Advice Hart help thousands of local residents experiencing debt and money worries. They could be helping you to find your way forward next.

To contact Citizens Advice Hart:

- Adviceline Telephone: **0808 278 7864** 9am – 5pm
- Email: [citizensadvice@hartcab.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:citizensadvice@hartcab.cabnet.org.uk)
- Online: [www.citizensadvicehart.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicehart.org.uk)

You can also use the Money Helper website to find helpful guidance and free debt advice online, by telephone or face-to-face [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk)

The Council has a range of online support services. You can find out more about money advice at [www.hart.gov.uk/hereforhart](http://www.hart.gov.uk/hereforhart)



## Are you concerned about the wellbeing of a young person?

The pandemic has had a profound effect on the wellbeing of many young people.

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing, you could speak to your GP surgery. You could also use the websites, helplines and services listed below to connect with support.

This list is not exhaustive and more information about support including urgent help services and wellbeing for adults can be found at [www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/mentalwellbeinghampshire](http://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/mentalwellbeinghampshire) and [www.hart.gov.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing](http://www.hart.gov.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing)

**121 Youth Counselling:** free weekly counselling sessions for young people aged 11- 25 who live in Hart, go to a school in the Hart district, or are registered with a Hart GP surgery. More information at [www.hartvolaction.org.uk/counselling/youth-counselling](http://www.hartvolaction.org.uk/counselling/youth-counselling) or telephone **01252 815652**

**Family Therapy Service:** a new service from Hart Voluntary Action to support families who live in Hart and Rushmoor. The service will be taking referrals from 15 November. This is an opportunity for families to have therapy together. Parents and young people will also be offered individual counselling or play therapy. More information at [www.hartvolaction.org.uk/news/family-therapy-service](http://www.hartvolaction.org.uk/news/family-therapy-service)

**Fleet Phoenix:** support young people aged 11-25 years and their families in Hart. They can assist you with any issue you are struggling with including building your confidence to seek specialist support. Telephone **01252 812308** or visit [www.fleetphoenix.co.uk](http://www.fleetphoenix.co.uk)

**Vision 4 Youth First Steps Café:** Mondays 7.30pm – 9pm during term time at St. Barnabus Church, Darby Green. A free drop-in café for young people aged 11-25 to come along for a chat about any worries or concerns they may have and to be signposted to other support if appropriate. More information at [www.vision4youth.org.uk](http://www.vision4youth.org.uk)



**Kooth:** a free anonymous online counselling and emotional wellbeing support service for young people aged 11-25 years in Hampshire. It offers a safe way to access support for emotional health and wellbeing needs from a team of professional qualified counsellors. More information at [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

**NHS Talking Therapies:** for anyone aged 16 and above who is experiencing anxiety, low mood, stress and other common mental health problems. You can self-refer or speak to your GP about a referral. There are two services depending on which GP surgery you are registered with:

- Talk Plus (for patients registered with a GP surgery in Fleet, Crondall or Yateley), telephone **01252 533355** or [www.talkplus.org.uk](http://www.talkplus.org.uk)
- italk (for patients registered with a GP surgery in Hook, Hartley Wintney or Odiham), telephone **02380 383920** or [www.italk.org.uk](http://www.italk.org.uk)

**ChatHealth:** Hampshire young people aged 11-19 years can text a school nurse on 07507 332160. Parents of children and young people aged 5-19 can text 07507 332417. More information at [www.hampshirehealthyfamilies.org.uk/chathealth](http://www.hampshirehealthyfamilies.org.uk/chathealth)

**Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service:** an NHS service that aims to help young people up to the age of 18 who

are finding it hard to manage their emotional and psychological health, and who are experiencing acute, chronic and severe mental health problems. Their website provides information and guidance on emotional wellbeing and mental health for any young person, parent or carer <https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk>

**Childline:** support for anyone up to age 18. Call **0800 1111**, chat online or email the crisis service. More at [www.childline.org.uk/get-support](http://www.childline.org.uk/get-support)

**Young Minds Parents Helpline:** is for any adult concerned about the emotional problems, behaviour or mental health of a child or young person up to the age of 25. Call **0808 802 5544**. More at [www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-helpline-and-webchat](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-helpline-and-webchat)

**Every Mind Matters:** information and videos to help young people look after their own mental wellbeing plus dedicated support to help parents and guardians look after the mental wellbeing of the children and young people they care for. More in our article on page 9 or visit [www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters)

If someone needs help urgently for their mental health, but it's not an emergency **dial 111** for mental health support 24/7 or contact your GP surgery and ask for an emergency appointment. Call **999** or go to A&E if someone's life is at risk.

# Introducing Here for Hart

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact people's lives and wellbeing, from jobs and household finances to mental health and relationships.

Before and during the pandemic, the Council has worked with a wide range of community partners to support the wellbeing and welfare of Hart residents, through local campaigns, projects, and services.

As a Council there are some things that we cannot directly control but we know it is important that we work with our partners and communities to tackle issues where we can.

As we move forward together, 'Here for Hart' is the umbrella under which we will continue to work with our partners and communities, to help people stay well, feel included in their community, and supported through the challenges brought about or made worse by the pandemic.

Here for Hart will celebrate and raise awareness of local support services and initiatives, bring community partners together to focus on local issues,



and support specific projects such as Hart into Employment and community pantries.

We want Here for Hart to become well-known and easily recognisable, so we have created a new logo which you will see on local campaigns and communications.

You can find out more about Here for Hart and local support services at [www.hart.gov.uk/hereforhart](http://www.hart.gov.uk/hereforhart)

## Looking for work?

Job searching can feel like a lonely task, but Hart into Employment is here to help.

A Hart into Employment member said: "I like the sense of not being on your own in your job hunt."

### Don't know where to start?

Whether you're facing a specific challenge in your job search or you'd simply like to be part of a friendly group to build your confidence and help you stay motivated, find out how we can help: [www.jobclubs.co.uk](http://www.jobclubs.co.uk), email [hart@jobclubs.co.uk](mailto:hart@jobclubs.co.uk), or telephone **01483 604580**

We offer weekly Zoom groups with trained careers advisors, online information and resources, and support to explore your options.

## The Community Pantry - helping feed people during tough times

Yateley Industries is proud to work with Hart District Council on the development of the Community Pantry in Mill Lane Yateley.

The pantry has now supported over 115 people with more than 800 visits since opening earlier this year.

Recently it introduced a hygiene bank to the pantry which provides additional support to people who have financially struggled during these challenging times. Volunteers are crucial to the success of the pantry and their continued dedication and support is greatly appreciated.

We help and encourage families that need a little bit of support to manage and budget through tough times. Families pay a £5 membership fee per shop to receive at least £15 worth of fresh, frozen and general foods. For information about how you can become a member telephone **01252 872337** or email [info@yateleyindustries.net](mailto:info@yateleyindustries.net)

The pantry is making a big difference to our community. One customer said: "Just wanted to say a massive thank-you for all the help you are giving the girls and



Food items in the Pantry

me! Your volunteers are always so welcoming and cheerful. Also have to say a massive thank-you for the treats we picked up today! The girls' faces when they saw the churros I got from the freezer were a picture and they thoroughly enjoyed tucking into them at tea time with a banana courtesy of yourselves!

"We really appreciate the pantry and feel so grateful to be able to use it whilst I am out of work. We have visited every week you have been open over the last few months and staff always had such enthusiasm and supportive natures, they are a team to be proud of!"

## Respiratory illness in children

The NHS is seeing an increase in children with coughs, colds and respiratory conditions with further increases being expected in winter months.

Paediatrician Dr Patrick Aldridge, from Frimley Park Hospital, said: "Most viral illnesses typically clear up within seven days, without the need for medical

support. For most children, treatment with paracetamol and/or ibuprofen, with sugary fluids when they're not eating, are usually enough to help.

"I would encourage parents and carers to access the NHS Frimley Healthier Together website for up-to-date advice at their fingertips".

**Worried about your child's cough, cold or fever?** **NHS**

It's like having a mini doctor at home

Visit our website [frimley-healthiertgether.nhs.uk](http://frimley-healthiertgether.nhs.uk)

## Do you know what a TPO is?

Trees make a positive contribution to the environment and character of the landscape through their historic, aesthetic and sentimental values.

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) protect selected trees and woodlands if their removal would have a significant impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public.

It is an offence to cut down, uproot, prune, damage or destroy protected trees without the Council's permission.

In August, a Fleet resident was ordered to pay more than £2,000 after pleading guilty to cutting down protected trees in a conservation area.

Basingstoke Magistrates' Court found that the two trees – a sycamore and a cypress – in the North Fleet Conservation Area were removed contrary to a Hart District Council Decision Notice issued on 30 January 2018. This allowed for the felling of several trees at the defendant's address but clearly stated this did not include the sycamore or cypress.

The following year the Council was notified by another resident that the trees had been removed to make way for a pool house.

The defendant was fined £540 for each tree felled with a victim surcharge of £108 and a compensation order of £1,295, totalling £2,483.

Conservation areas provide the same level of legal protection for trees as a TPO, which require written consent from the Council to remove, prune or undertake any other form of work to a tree.

For a range of information on trees and hedges visit [www.hart.gov.uk/trees-hedges](http://www.hart.gov.uk/trees-hedges)

**Did you know that we have an online map where you can view all TPOs?** Visit our website <http://maps.hart.gov.uk/customSoloHDCTPO.html>

## An update from our food safety team

Our Environmental Health Food Safety team is currently responsible for enforcing food safety in 783 food premises in the district, including: restaurants, hotels, pubs, schools and shops.

The team works with food businesses to ensure they comply with legislation and adopt best practice. This includes control of the risks to health that may be associated with food storage, preparation, processing, and handling. This helps promote a high level of public confidence in the safety of food prepared, handled and sold in Hart, including participating in the national food hygiene rating scheme.

In 2020/21 the team:

- Inspected 195 food premises
- Processed 53 enquiries regarding food safety at local premises
- Received 260 enquiries in relation to health, safety and welfare issues

The aims of the Food Safety service are:

- To ensure that food and drink intended for sale for human consumption, which is produced, stored, distributed, handled or consumed within Hart is without risk to the health or safety of the consumer



- To investigate suspected and confirmed food poisoning incidents, to locate the source of contamination and to prevent it spreading to protect the health of the public
- To provide information and advice on food safety matters for business and members of the public.

In October the team supported the new laws to protect customers who suffer from allergies. Natasha's Law requires all food businesses to provide full ingredient lists and allergen labelling on food packaged for sale on premises.

For further information on our services, please visit [www.hart.gov.uk/food-safety-0](http://www.hart.gov.uk/food-safety-0) or for information about the food hygiene rating scheme visit [www.food.gov.uk/ratings](http://www.food.gov.uk/ratings)



## Are you at risk of flooding?

With winter approaching now is the time to stock up on sandbags if your home is vulnerable to flooding. They can be purchased from local builders merchants, DIY stores or garden centres. The Council has a limited stock of free sandbags but these are reserved for emergencies when homes are at serious risk of flooding.

For more information and advice on flooding, visit [www.hart.gov.uk/flooding-weather-advice](http://www.hart.gov.uk/flooding-weather-advice)



Did you know that climate change has increased the risk of floods in England by at least 20% according to the Met Office?

	Rapid lateral flow tests	PCR tests
<b>COVID-19 tests - what's the difference?</b>		
<b>When do I take them?</b>	• Twice a week - if you have no symptoms	• After an NHS Test and Trace alert • After a positive rapid test • Or if you have symptoms
<b>Do I send them away for processing?</b>	No	Yes
<b>When do I get the results?</b>	Up to 30 minutes	24 - 72 hours
<b>Where do I get one?</b>	• Online • Test sites • Call 119 • Participating pharmacies	• Online • Test sites • Call 119

**For more information visit [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing)**

# Kickstart Scheme: supporting Hart's young people

As part of the Government's post pandemic 'Plan for Jobs', the Kickstart Scheme was launched to support young people at risk of long-term unemployment.

Organisations offer a six-month paid work placement, funded by the Government, to a young person aged 16 to 24 years old who is claiming Universal Credit. The scheme has been vital as the pandemic has had a disproportionately negative effect on young people across the UK.

Currently in Hart, as with the rest of Hampshire, the 16 to 24-year-old age group has the highest rate of Universal Credit claimants.

Employers have been signing up to give a range of fantastic opportunities for young people. These placements allow individuals to develop transferable skills and gain vital work experience, increasing their chances of sustained employment.

Citizens Advice Hart is one local organisation that has supported the scheme and has hosted three Kickstart young people. Sam Mabott, Chief Executive, said: "We have been absolutely delighted to employ three Kickstarters at Citizens Advice Hart. The scheme has given Daniella, Jessie and Sonia an opportunity to learn new skills and discover their talents.

"We recognise the added value that having younger people in the team brings to our organisation with the breadth of thinking and diverse skillset. We have



been impressed by their commitment and willingness to learn. It has been a pleasure to see them flourish, grow in confidence and recognise their strengths. We would highly recommend any employer to get involved in the Kickstart Scheme and give a young person an opportunity to join your team."

Daniella was employed as a telephone assessor on the Kickstart scheme and said "I have become a lot more confident when dealing with clients", and when asked what her advice was for other young people considering a Kickstart vacancy she said "Go for it!".

Employers looking to sign up for the Kickstart scheme must do so by 17 December 2021. Email the local Employer and Partnership Manager via [jackie.sutherland@dw.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.sutherland@dw.gov.uk) for more information.

For young people aged 16 to 24 and on Universal Credit, speak to your job coach about the current local vacancies.



## INSPIRE Awards: finalists based in Hart

Good luck to all finalists and especially businesses from the district which have been announced as finalists:

- Young Business Person of the year: Victoria Wayman from Just Love Studio
- Small Business of the Year : Safe Hands Book Keeping
- Medium Business of the Year: Jargon PR
- Wellbeing at Work: GDS Instruments and iWaste

The INSPIRE Business Awards celebrate the success of local businesses in North Hampshire. The winners will be announced at the gala dinner on 25 November.

Hart District Council is supporting the awards by sponsoring the New Business of the Year category, for the fourth year in a row.

For more information about the awards, visit [www.destinationbasingstoke.co.uk/inspire](http://www.destinationbasingstoke.co.uk/inspire)

# Help to grow management programme

**Are you looking to enhance your management and strategic capabilities and produce a growth plan for your business?**

This part-government funded course is facilitated by small business experts from leading university business schools. This practical programme takes place over three-months.

It will include both online and face-to-face sessions, alongside peer support and mentoring. The University of Winchester is offering this programme and have provided more information below.

Please visit Small Business Charter for the full list of universities which are providing the programme. <https://smallbusinesscharter.org/h2gm-registration>

## Summary of the Programme

**Help to Grow: Management** – an executive development programme to support SMEs to boost their business performance and growth potential. Small business leaders will develop their strategic skills to increase their business's long-term productivity, resilience and capacity to innovate.

Delivery to 30,000 SMEs across the UK over 3 years.



Hybrid virtual/in person programme - 50 hours over 12 weeks. Designed to be manageable alongside full time work.



Curriculum designed with support from industry, using real world case studies from British businesses.



Participants will receive 10 hours of 1:1 support from a mentor to develop a business growth plan. Programme includes 8 hours of peer-to-peer learning, as well as access to an alumni network.



90% funded by government – participants charged £750.



Businesses with 5-249 employees, that have been operating for 1+ years are eligible. Participants should be a senior decision maker within the business (e.g. Chief Executive, Finance Director etc.).



Delivered by a consortium of the UK's leading business schools accredited by the Small Business Charter (SBC).

## Small business Saturday is back!

Small Business is a national non-commercial campaign which highlights small business success and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities.

This year Small Business Saturday is being held on 4 December. Hart District Council has agreed to waive car parking charges in all council-owned car parks on Saturday 4 December, between 8am and midnight to support Small Business Saturday.

By supporting the event, Hart District Council aims to encourage people to use independent businesses in their area, and help the local economy thrive. It's also an opportunity for businesses to put on special events or offers.

If you are a small business, check out the Small Business Saturday website to find out ways in which you can be involved, visit <https://smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com/>

## New ways to tackle anti-social behaviour

We know that, where left unchecked, anti-social behaviour (ASB) can have an overwhelming impact on its victims and, in some cases, on the wider community. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced specific measures designed to give victims and communities a say in the way that complaints of ASB are dealt with and included access to an ASB Case Review process known as the Community Trigger.

The Community Trigger gives victims of serious and persistent ASB reported to any of the main responsible agencies - most commonly the Council, Police or housing provider - the right to request a multi-agency case review of their case.

This is triggered by three ASB reports in a six-month period or just one hate incident or crime, is met and they feel that no effective action has been taken to resolve their case.

A victim can be an individual person, business, or community group.

Hart Community Safety administers and co-ordinates the Community Trigger process in Hart. It does not matter which agency a victim has reported incidents to, Hart Community Safety will obtain the details of incidents relevant to the Community Trigger application.

A victim can activate the Community Trigger by any of the following methods:

- Contacting Police via **101** or [www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/](http://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/)
- Contacting Hart Community Safety via **07816 109682 / 07816 109687** or [www.hart.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour-reporting-form](http://www.hart.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour-reporting-form)

You can also email [communitysafety@hart.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@hart.gov.uk) or send a letter to:  
**Community Safety Manager  
Hart District Council  
Harlington Way  
Fleet GU51 4AE**

## Simple tips to keep you safe this winter

Crime can make its way into any community, no matter how 'safe' it is. But, the good news is that everyone can do their bit and take preventative measures to protect their homes and neighbourhoods – and it is especially important during the months of longer, darker evenings.

Here are some key tips that will help you to be a proactive member in your community to promote safety:

- When running late or away from home, use timers or smart lights and other devices e.g. TVs, radios etc to create the impression you are home.
- Installing remotely controlled doorbell cameras can let you talk to someone who is at your door – you can even drop in on your home hub device (e.g. Amazon Echo, Google Home Hub etc) when you get a notification that someone is there to make it seem like you are at home and just busy.
- Get to know your neighbours – who usually lives there or regularly visits them? This is so you can be aware of any unusual or suspicious activity around their homes.
- Keep your holiday dates off social media – this is an all too easy invitation to criminals!
- Remember to lock all doors and windows – burglars only need one vulnerable point of entry to get in.
- Minimise visibility into your home by closing blinds and curtains.
- Install motion-sensor lights outside your home as a deterrent against would-be intruders and will give you some peace of mind to know when someone is approaching your home.
- Let a trusted neighbour know when you are going to be away for a few days – and even let them have a key if you are comfortable to do so, so that they know to keep an eye on things for you, stop mail piling up. If you have a car, you may also want to ask your neighbour to move your car around to make it appear as if you are home.
- If you get to know your neighbours well, social media and text groups can work effectively to support one another.
- Join or start a Neighbourhood Watch. See [ourwatch.org.uk](http://ourwatch.org.uk) for more information.
- Ensure your home wi-fi network settings are secure and locked.
- Keep fobs for keyless cars in a signal blocking pouch or box and/or use a steering wheel lock.
- Don't leave valuables in sight in your car.
- Keep personal details safe by shredding or cross marking any unwanted paperwork – identity theft is real and expensive.
- Know what to do if something does happen and make sure your whole family is aware too.

While it's impossible to ward off 100% of crime, implementing these measures and encouraging your neighbours to do the same can make a big difference to your community.



Stay up to date with Community Safety projects by signing up for our regular email bulletin. To be added to the distribution list please email [communitysafety@hart.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@hart.gov.uk)

## Children experience the reality of exploitation



The Community Safety Partnership across North Hampshire, which includes Police, the Youth Offending Teams and the National Probation Service, in conjunction with Hampshire Children's Services, has identified that exploitation of our young people is

an increasing risk. In response, during the summer, Hart Community Safety organised a 'Drugs Bus' to tour local schools and youth groups.

With a replica crack den and prison cell aboard the bus, it provided an interactive experience designed to dispel the glamour of a life involved in drugs and crime. It showed the reality of making poor choices, how to look out for signs that exploitation is occurring, the skills and tools to deal with risky situations and tips on how to guide young people to assertively communicate with potential exploiters. The bus was well received by all and thank you to all the community groups involved.



# Sleeping Beauty at The Harlington

Starburst Theatre are back with a bang this year, once again gracing the stage at The Harlington, Fleet with their production of Sleeping Beauty.

With a cast entirely of volunteers, who are donating their time in support of the Starburst Charity, they will be performing over 30 shows between 11 December and 30 December.

This is the fifth pantomime production back at the The Harlington, following Aladdin 2019, Cinderella 2018, Jack and the beanstalk 2017 and Snow White 2016.

Previous shows have seen the theatre company raise donations to our charity sector which helps support children with special needs and disabilities in our local area and a special charity performance will take place for beneficiaries and children of local specialised schools.

Tickets are available now via [www.theharlington.co.uk](http://www.theharlington.co.uk) with many shows selling fast.



## Helping you stay well this winter

Dr Huw Thomas, Clinical Chair, Frimley Health shares his advice for staying well this winter.

“Ahead of winter it is really important that we all take care of ourselves and those around us. Over the winter months, checking in on older neighbours and relatives, and those with heart or breathing problems is even more important. We have developed a new booklet, so residents have the information, support and confidence to self-care and stay well.”

The ‘Helping you to stay well guide’ can be downloaded from the Frimley Health and Care website [www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk/living-here/helping-you-to-stay-well](http://www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk/living-here/helping-you-to-stay-well) and will also be distributed at local vaccination and flu clinic sites.

If you are feeling unwell however, the NHS is there for you. If your condition is not life threatening, you can use the online NHS111 service <https://111.nhs.uk>, or visit your pharmacy, or call 111

## Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022



Next year, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. Get involved in celebrating Her Majesty’s historic reign.

There are lots of ways you can take part in The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations, whether you are a school, business, community group, or want to get involved yourself.

Many events and activities will be happening throughout the UK and beyond to celebrate. Discover events taking place near you with an online map. For more information visit <https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk>

The Council is (at the time of going to press) considering a £1,000 grant fund per ward to recognise the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. For more information visit [www.hart.gov.uk](http://www.hart.gov.uk)

## Funding available to support local wellbeing projects and services

The pandemic has led to more people in the UK feeling isolated or lonely. Disabled people and those whose age or long-term health conditions place them at higher risk from coronavirus have been particularly affected.

In April we launched the Community Connections grant scheme in partnership with Hart Voluntary Action. It supports local projects and services that can help Hart residents to reconnect with others and rebuild their confidence and wellbeing.

To date, the fund has awarded over £11,000 to support seven projects including social events for people living with dementia and their carers run by the Daisy Chain Café, one-to-one support from MHA Communities to help older people rebuild their confidence to go out and about, and a drop-in Chill Zone for people



with autism and their families run by Autism Friendly Fleet.

A member of the Daisy Chain Café said: “It was lovely to get out in such pleasant surroundings and to meet up again with the people we know and have not seen for months. It was great to be out again.”

Funding is still available and voluntary and community groups can apply for up to £2,500 for projects which meet the eligibility criteria. More information about the fund and how to apply can be found at [www.hart.gov.uk/covid-19](http://www.hart.gov.uk/covid-19)

## Popular monthly food market is back!

Elvetham Heath Markets take over The Key car park on Elvetham Heath every second Saturday of each month from 10am to 1.30pm (apart from January and August). This vibrant market has gone from strength to strength in recent years and is now a popular monthly event offering a variety of products from local, artisan producers.

Expect to be tempted by the wonderful selection of sweet treats on offer from mouth-watering cakes, brownies and Portuguese tarts to the savoury delights of Mud Foods’ award-winning pies, sourdough, smoked trout pate, cheese and eggs.

There’s also a greengrocer, plant and florist stalls as well as hot food and drink options. Saturday 11 December is the Christmas Special, with a range of festive treats and gift options.

Visit Elvetham Heath Parish Council’s social media pages or check out [elvethamheath.org.uk/community/events/elvetham-heath-market](http://elvethamheath.org.uk/community/events/elvetham-heath-market) for the latest information on stalls and dates.



Mud Foods



A florist stall

## Useful contact numbers for council services

You can find a range of online services available 24/7 on our website [www.hart.gov.uk](http://www.hart.gov.uk)

If you can't find what you are looking for on our website, please contact using one of the numbers below:

- Building Control (Building Regulations) - 01252 398715
- Business Rates enquiries - 01252 622122
- Community Safety - 01252 622122
- Council Tax enquiries - 01252 622122
- Countryside Service - 01252 622122
- Dog Warden - 03444 828 320
- Environmental Health - 01252 774421
- FlyTipping - 01252 622122
- Frogmore Leisure Centre, Yateley - 01252 873454
- Hart Leisure Centre, Fleet - 03330 050134
- Housing Benefit - 01252 622122
- Housing Services – 01252 774420
- Licensing - 01252 622122
- Local Land Charges - 01252 622122
- Parking - 01252 622122
- Pest Control - 03444 828 325
- Planning Application enquiries - 01252 774419
- Planning Policy enquiries – 01252 774418
- Voter Registration and Elections – 01252 774073

For all other services, please phone **01252 622122**. Our customer service team is available Monday to Thursday - 8.30am to 5pm and Friday - 8.30am to 4.30pm.

For out of hours including, emergency homelessness, dog warden services or noise enquiries **01252 774477**

**NHS**

## Stop the spread this winter.

The flu virus kills almost 11,000 people and hospitalises tens of thousands more in England in an average year. It's more important than ever to get your flu jab this year.

Find out if you're eligible for a free flu vaccine at [nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](http://nhs.uk/wintervaccinations)

## Hart News

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### Editorial & advertising enquiries:

Amy Summers  
01252 774460  
[hartnews@hart.gov.uk](mailto:hartnews@hart.gov.uk)

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For further information about Hart News please visit [www.hart.gov.uk/Hart-News](http://www.hart.gov.uk/Hart-News)

## Calendar of Council meetings 2021/22

The timetable below shows when Council meetings take place.

Important decisions are taken at Cabinet and Council meetings. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings to see how the Council operates.

Please see our website [www.hart.gov.uk](http://www.hart.gov.uk) to view the agenda for specific meetings.

We are now live streaming our Council meetings. All meetings begin at 7pm except where stated. To view, please visit our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Hart District Council. Recordings will be kept for three months. All meetings are held at the Hart District Council Offices, Harlington Way, Fleet, GU51 4AE.

Meetings	Day	Nov	Dec	Jan 22	Feb	Mar	Apr
<b>Cabinet</b>	Thursday	4	2	6	3	3	7
<b>Council</b>	Thursday	25		27	24		28
<b>Licensing committee</b>	Tuesday	23			1		5
<b>Planning committee</b>	Wednesday	10	8	12	9	9	13
<b>Planning (enforcement sub-committee)</b>	Monday (10am)		6			7	
<b>Overview and scrutiny committee</b>	Tuesday	16	14	18	15	15	19
<b>Audit committee</b>	Tuesday		7			22	

# Chairman's charities: supporting local children



Cllr Simon Ambler, Chairman of Hart District Council, has announced his charities for his civic year.

The three chosen charities are:

- **1st Crookham Scout Group** - Over 180 boys and girls take part in three Beaver colonies, three Cub packs and three Scout troops. The funds raised will go towards rebuilding the group HQ in Basingbourne Woods, Church Crookham, with any remaining funds supporting the group's other activities.
- **Young Carers Support** - Support to young carers and their families who live in Hart. There are weekly club sessions, outings, residential and overnight events as well as parents' support sessions.
- **Inclusion Hampshire** - A specialist education provider supporting young people with mental health and additional learning needs. The funds will go towards paying for Casper, their service dog in training.

Speaking about the charities, Cllr Ambler said: "This past year has been exceptionally difficult for children, some of the most vulnerable residents in our community. I'm delighted to be able to support these groups providing vital services to improve children's wellbeing. I look forward to my civic year and raising funds for these truly deserving charities."

For more information about the Chairman of the Council visit [www.hart.gov.uk/chairman-council-2021-22](http://www.hart.gov.uk/chairman-council-2021-22)



Casper is being trained in Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI)



## Meet your local councillors

### Blackwater & Hawley



### Crookham East



### Crookham West & Ewshot



### Fleet Central



### Fleet East



### Fleet West



### Hartley Wintney



### Hook



### Odiham



### Yateley East



### Yateley West



For more information about your councillors, please visit:

[www.hart.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.hart.gov.uk/councillors)



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