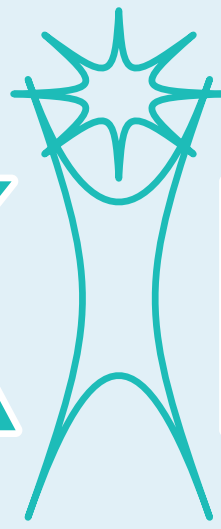


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WOKING

magazine




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Introduction



Welcome to the spring edition of The Woking Magazine.

With the changing of the season, we look at Woking Town Centre's transformation as we welcome new residents and businesses to our borough.

It's what everyone's been talking about - the much-anticipated Victoria Place development is finally set to open in a matter of weeks.

Discover a host of exciting new retailers and the welcome return of Marks & Spencer, with their new flagship store the centrepiece of Woking's new development. Popular brands Gail's, Moss and Skechers will also be opening their doors and making Woking their new home.

We celebrate Woking's sporting heroes as we unveil the Sport Woking Award 2022 winners.

This year the Queen marks 70 years as our Monarch. Read on to find out what exciting plans are afoot to mark this very special occasion and how you can once again hold street parties in your local community.

With spring upon us, why not explore Goldsworth Park Recreation Ground? With hidden gems and unique ecology, it's the perfect place to while away an afternoon. For something more energetic, gear up and give the improved cycle track a go! And it's suitable for the whole family.

And that just leaves me enough space to remind you to use your right to vote in the forthcoming Woking Borough Council elections on Thursday 5 May and to wish you a happy and peaceful Easter.

Andy Denner

Editor










The Woking Magazine

#WEAREWOKING

Front cover: Boz Almic presents Tyler Paton with his Sport Woking award



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Contact details

The Woking Magazine is compiled and published three times a year by Woking Borough Council. A total of 50,000 copies are printed and delivered free to households and many public information points across the borough.

Editorial Team: Andy Denner, phone 01483 743026, email andy.denner@woking.gov.uk **Quantum PR,** phone 01233 500200, email charlie@quantumpr.co.uk
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If you wish to **advertise** in The Woking Magazine, please call Andy Denner on 01483 743026, or email andy.denner@woking.gov.uk

The appearance of adverts or loose leaf inserts in The Woking Magazine does not constitute an endorsement by the Council. The Woking Magazine is distributed to households via Royal Mail. We have no control over the type or quantity of other materials that are delivered by Royal Mail at the same time.

Some content within this publication may pre-date current government imposed regulations in force to control the spread of Coronavirus.

Ex-servicemen drop-in sessions to open in Woking

A new ex-servicemen drop-in service will open this spring in Woking to support ex-service and blue light personnel and their families.

Woking Fire Station will host the drop-in sessions every third Wednesday of the month between 10.30am and 12noon.

The drop-in sessions will provide veterans, ex-servicemen and women, former blue light personnel and family members the opportunity to get together on a regular basis over refreshments. Support will be on-hand each month from different charities to provide expert advice and signpost to appropriate sources of assistance.

For more information about the ex-servicemen drop-in sessions, please visit

www.surreycc.gov.uk/armedforces or alternatively, please email armedforces@surreycc.gov.uk



Could you help your local community?



A community transport scheme is calling on local drivers to come forward and volunteer their time to support elderly residents.

Established in 2003, Knaphill Care offers transport to elderly residents who might otherwise have difficulty accessing local services and amenities, such as visiting hospital or the shops.

Knaphill Care Chairman, Martin Dunham, said, "We are always keen to recruit new volunteer drivers. The commitment can be as little or as much time as you can offer, even if it's once every couple of months. Mileage is reimbursed. In addition, we need assistance answering phone enquires during the week. Again, commitment can be as little or as much time as you can offer."

Interested? Please call Knaphill Care on **07792 514166** between 10am and 12noon.

If you'd like to find out more about local volunteering opportunities, please visit www.volunteerwoking.org.uk

Soroptimists mark the past, whilst creating the future

Woking Soroptimists have planted a silver birch to mark the centenary of the international organisation and the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Woking branch.

A commemorative plaque was unveiled by Mayor of Woking, Cllr Liam Lyons, during a special ceremony in December. The tree is located near to the Victoria Place development.

The silver birch symbolises the strong commitment of Woking

Soroptimists to the local community during the past 45 years, whilst looking to the future.

Search 'Woking Soroptimists' online for more information about the group's activities and how you can get involved.



Site Allocations DPD adopted by Council

A document that identifies urban and Green Belt sites for future development has been adopted by elected members during a meeting of Full Council in October.

The Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) is an important document that the Council is required to prepare to enable the delivery of its Core Strategy, which was adopted in October 2012 and reviewed in October 2018.

The document identifies urban and Green Belt sites for future housing, employment and infrastructure within the Borough to ensure development requirements are met in a sustainable manner.

With the adoption of the Site Allocations DPD, the Council is in a strong position to defend speculative development in the Green Belt.

Cllr Gary Elson, Woking Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy, said: "The adoption of the borough's Site Allocations Development Plan Document is a significant achievement. It will provide a positive framework for the future sustainable development within the borough until 2027 and safeguards land for future development needs between 2027 and 2040."

To view the Site Allocations DPD and other planning documents, please visit www.woking2027.info

High Sheriff Youth Awards: Funding available for young people's projects

Are you looking for funding for a project or initiative for young people that will help reduce or prevent crime – and make communities stronger and safer by reaching out and helping others?

Applications for the High Sheriff Youth Awards (HSYA) are being accepted for new or existing projects or initiatives.

The HSYA provides grants of between £100 and £2,000 to projects for young people, particularly aimed at those aged between 9 and 18 in Surrey - with the aim of helping young people make our county safer.

For further details about how to qualify and apply, please visit www.surreyhighsheriff.org or email applications@surreyhighsheriff.org

Woking's first inclusive playground

Kingfield's Loop Road Recreation Ground play area has recently been refurbished, following the installation of new, inclusive play equipment.

The Council, in partnership with play equipment provider KOMPAN, delivered the improved play area that reopened late last year featuring inclusive play equipment and activities that are both exciting and challenging for children of all ages and abilities.

The inclusive design was inspired by a local parents' petition, requesting more wheelchair accessible play equipment in the borough.



The play area includes Woking's first fully accessible roundabout and accessible multi-play unit with wheelchair access, as well as a double width see-saw, cradle and basket swings, springers and sensory play features.

To find out more about the borough's play areas, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/playareas

Are you Wild about Woking?

Join Surrey Wildlife Trust, Woking Borough Council and friends as they explore the wild side of our borough.

From greening our town centre to creating insect havens, be inspired by our pop-up wildlife garden, learn from our experts about the importance of pollinators and how you can help them. Take part in a nature trail, guided walks, wildlife themed crafts and much more!

Wild about Woking launches Surrey Wildlife Trust's 30 Days Wild campaign and is run with Woking Borough Council to raise awareness of how you can help care for our borough through local biodiversity and greenspace projects.

This free event will take place on **Saturday 21 May, between 10am and 4pm, and Sunday 22 May 2022, between 11am until 4pm**, in Jubilee Square and Gloucester Walk, Woking Town Centre. No booking is required.



Please visit www.planetwoking.co.uk for more information.

Surrey Youth Games to make welcome return

Young people eager to try a new sport can sign up for free coaching sessions, as part of this year's Surrey Youth Games.

The six to eight week programme of free coaching and skills sessions for those aged between 6 and 16 will be held between April and June 2022.

Sports include girls' football, swimming, inclusive dance, street basketball, tennis and judo.

The ethos of this year's Surrey Youth Games is to provide sporting opportunities for those who wouldn't usually participate. The sessions are created for beginners, so please do not register if your child is already or has recently been involved within the chosen sport.

For a full list of sports, training dates, venues, and participation criteria, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/syg or email sport.services@woking.gov.uk



Thinking of setting up in business?

Did you know that in 2020 more than a thousand new businesses were established in Woking? Starting a new business can be both exhilarating and daunting, and keeping it going even more so.

That's one of the reasons Woking Works created Start Up Woking, a network of support for start-ups, micro-enterprises and small businesses.

Woking Works' partnership between the Council's Business Liaison Team, five key local businesses, two independent business advisors and five local business organisations, is designed to help new and established businesses succeed.

Start Up Woking has supported hundreds of businesses in the borough, some from inception through to expansion.

If you are thinking about starting your own business, or are in the first three years of trading, here's how Start Up Woking could help you.

- **Free advice** - 90 minutes of one-to-one advice from a member of the Start Up Woking team.
- **Skills training** - practical workshops that will introduce you to digital products and services that will help you run your business more efficiently, raise your profile, and find new clients.

- **Networking events** - opportunities to showcase your business, swap strategies with other members and build valuable working relationships.

Through its connections with the wider business community, Woking Works is also able to offer support to more established firms who may be looking to move, grow or expand into new markets.

To find out more, visit www.wokingworks.com or email help@wokingworks.com



Surrey's green business awards, CREST22



Time's running out for Surrey's greenest businesses to enter this year's CREST22 business awards. The awards recognise local businesses that make a positive impact on our environment.

The awards are presented by Woking News and Mail in association with the University of Surrey's internationally acclaimed Centre for the Environment and Sustainability and Surrey County Council. The awards evening hosted at WWF-UK's Living Planet Centre in Woking is on 19 May 2022.

Online entries close on 25 March 2022.

To enter your business, or to find out more about the categories and award criteria, visit www.crestawardssurrey.co.uk



Cracking down on unauthorised car meets

There's nothing wrong with loving your car and investing in its modifications (within legal reason!). In fact, displaying them in action is nothing new and has been a popular hobby for years. Yet for many local residents, this hobby has become a nuisance, with unofficial car meets in the borough on the rise.

Official car meets give enthusiasts the chance to show off their wheels whilst providing a safe environment for spectators and driver's alike. Some official events even have specific areas where drivers can perform stunts and displays.

Unfortunately, in recent months, Woking has seen a significant increase in the number of unofficial events that are taking place in car parks without the landowners' permission.

This disruption causes nuisance to residents that live nearby and safety concerns have been raised repeatedly around the manner of driving, as well as to and from it.

Taking action

As part of a crackdown, Surrey Police will attend when reports of this nature are made. CCTV will also be reviewed after the event to identify vehicles that have attended.

Any identified offenders are contacted and warned to stay away from unofficial events. Repeat

offenders could be issued with a Community Protection Notice, which could lead to the seizure of the vehicle. Surrey Police are also taking a tough stance on any identified driving offences, both car modifications and general driving standards witnessed or evidenced through CCTV.

Parental advice

Some of the vehicles identified belong to the drivers parents who allow the use of their vehicle. If your son or daughter is borrowing your car, please make sure you know what it is being used for.

Report it

Do you often hear vehicles gathering near your home, causing a disturbance? Report this to the Police on 101 at the time of the incident.

For more information about community safety in Woking, please email

community.safety@woking.gov.uk

or visit

www.woking.gov.uk/communitysafety

Easter waste and recycling collections

There's great news this Easter! Waste and recycling collections will remain the same, as collection crews will be out and about during the Easter bank holiday.

So once you've munched your chocolately treats, don't forget to check what packaging can be recycled before placing in your blue-lidded bin and any leftover food in your silver kitchen caddy.

Not sure what you can recycle? Check out Joint Waste Solution's handy online tool that explains what you can and cannot recycle. Visit www.jointwastesolutions.org for more information.



Council approves financial budget for 2022/23

Woking Borough Council's financial plans for 2022/23 were approved during a meeting of elected members in February.

As part of the balanced budget, the Borough Council's Council Tax charge will rise by 2% for 2022/23. This means that those living in a Band D property will pay £255.46 per year for Borough Council services, such as waste and recycling collections, social housing, environmental maintenance, planning services and leisure facilities – an increase of £5 for the whole year, less than 10 pence per week.

The Borough's Council Tax charge will be added to Surrey County Council's charge (£1,626.39 for a Band D property) and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner's charge (£295.57 for a Band D property). The Borough Council collects Council Tax behalf of these organisations.

The total Council Tax change for a Band D property will be £2,177.42 for 2022/23.

Households will receive their Council Tax bill for the coming year shortly. Anyone experiencing difficulties paying their Council Tax should contact Woking Borough Council on **01483 755855** or email ctax@woking.gov.uk



Try bowls – for free!

Horsell Bowls Club, a thriving, friendly club established over 100 years ago and situated in the heart of Horsell, is hosting an open day on Saturday 16 April 2022 between 10am and 12noon.

Both novice and experienced players are encouraged to come along to meet qualified coaches, have a chat and try bowling. The club always welcomes new members.

All equipment will be provided, just wear flat shoes. For further details, please call Alison on **01483 720201** or email a.ferries@sky.com

The club is located in Queen Elizabeth Gardens, High Street, Horsell, next to the Village Hall and opposite The Crown.

May Fayre fun in Horsell

The Horsell Scouts and Guides May Fayre is making a welcome return on May Bank Holiday, 2 May 2022.

The ever-popular fayre features stalls, inflatables, music, games, and not forgetting the competitions, all in a Covid-safe environment. This year's main area will feature Ridgeside's "Little Nippers", a fast action-packed K-9 display. Your pooch could even get the chance to take part too!

For more information, please email Dick Mackie at dick.mackie49@gmail.com



Celebrating the Queen's

This year, Celebrate Woking returns to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a weekend of family-friendly fun!

In June, Her Majesty the Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, having acceded the throne on 6 February 1952.

To mark this magnificent achievement, there will be an extended bank holiday from **Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June**, which will provide an opportunity for communities to come together to celebrate.



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

2 to 5 June 2022, Woking Town Centre

Jubilee Square will come alive with Platinum Jubilee celebrations! Relax and soak up the atmosphere as our summer garden vibe returns featuring a big screen airing the best Jubilee-related highlights, deck chairs and a host of activities such as table tennis!

Whether enjoying an afternoon tea or tucking into Woking's latest culinary delights, join us for a Platinum Jubilee celebration fit for a queen, as Woking Town Centre is transformed into one big street party!

We'll even have the Crown Jewels on display (or at least the finest replicas in the land!) in the shopping centre.

Watch out for more announcements posted on

www.celebratewoking.info

or in the local press as we count down to the Platinum Jubilee!

Platinum Jubilee Beacon Lighting Ceremony

Thursday 2 June 2022

Jubilee Square, Woking Town Centre

The first community event of the four-day platinum celebrations, more than 1,500 beacons will be lit by communities, charities and different groups throughout the UK.

Join us in Jubilee Square for this unique opportunity to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen and her achievements.

Surrey's Jubilee Celebrations Display

3 May to 17 June 2022

Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND

We've delved into the archives to showcase past Jubilee celebrations in Surrey. With images dating back to Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 right up to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, discover how Surrey has celebrated Jubilees in the past.

Free family activity craft packs will also be available for children to collect from the centre during the lead up to the Jubilee.





Platinum Jubilee



Pyrford and Wisley Village Show

Saturday 9 July 2022
Pyrford Cricket Field, Coldharbour Road, GU22 8ST, Pyrford, Woking, Surrey £3 admission

The Pyrford and Wisley Village Show is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2022, and this year, its theme is 'Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee'. In addition to the stalls, refreshments, dog show and usual attractions, this year features live music! And not forgetting the horticultural displays in the main marquee. Come along with family and friends and enjoy the day!

70 years of Woking's history

Monday 13 June 2022, 8pm
Nova Cinema, The Peacock Centre, Woking, GU21 6GQ
Members free, non-members £5

David Rose will take us through 70 years of Woking's history. Local historian and writer, David, will bring people together to celebrate our heritage and mark an occasion of collective significance that will cultivate a sense of community.



Thinking about hosting a street party?

Many of us held street parties in 2012 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, and again last year saw us connecting with our neighbours and celebrating safely in our streets.

Borough residents planning to hold a small, private street party to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations will need to apply for a licence.

Once you have your street party licence you may also consider:

- Consent is needed from Surrey County Council if you want to hang bunting over or along the roadside.
- It is your responsibility to clean up after the event.
- Be considerate to all neighbours and inform them if you are planning on playing loud music.

It's never too late to start planning your own celebrations.

Helpful links

Stay up-to-date with the latest plans
www.celebratewoking.info

Apply for a street party
www.woking.gov.uk/community/street-parties

Official Platinum Jubilee events programme online
www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend

Add you community event to our what's on guide
www.celebratewoking.info/events/submit

Follow [@CelebrateWoking](https://www.facebook.com/CelebrateWoking) on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram** to keep up to date with the local celebrations and how you can get involved.

#WEAREWOKING

TOGETHER

THE MOMENT IS HERE!

The much-anticipated opening of the new extension to Woking's Wolsey Place and The Peacocks is happening on 23 March*.

Marks & Spencer will open its doors to reveal the store's full range of products including clothing, homewares and gifts, along with a significant food hall and a café. Gail's, Moss and Skechers will also open on 23 March.

Woking SuperBowl and The Gym Group are also getting set to open in the coming months. They'll be joined over the summer by one of the world's oldest and most respected performing arts institutions, Italia Conti, which is incorporating its sites at Barbican, Clapham and Guildford in one amazing new home right in the heart of Woking.



'WOKING SHOPPING' BECOMES 'VICTORIA PLACE'

The retail heart of Woking is to be renamed "Victoria Place".

'Woking Shopping' no longer covers all that's on offer in the town, so everything is being brought together as 'Victoria Place'. During 2022 all the brands you already know and love in Woking will be joined by an exciting line-up of new shopping, dining and leisure experiences. The new name aims to reflect this broader range.



Victoria Place forms a major part of the £700m regeneration scheme in Woking which includes the new external Victoria Square and Henry Plaza, the spacious extension of the mall beneath an impressive atrium roof. Plus a brand new car park which is one of the most technologically advanced in the region.

THE PERKIEST PLACE TO RENT IS NOW OPEN FOR VIEWINGS

If you've been excited to watch Woking's changing skyline over the last few years, now's your chance to step inside one of the stunning new residential towers. The Marches, which will become occupied from April 2022, is a brilliant blend of comfort and convenience, ease and excitement. Here you'll find furnished and unfurnished studios, one and two bedroom rental apartments, along with options to access top floor resident's lounges, co-working space and 24/7 on-site resident services. To top it all off... the apartments are pet-friendly too!

Viewings can now be arranged, so come and take a peek. You can arrange a visit via www.themarcheswoking.co.uk or contact the team directly on community.support@themarcheswoking.com

STAY IN THE HEART OF IT ALL

Right in the heart of the new Victoria Place development is the flagship Hilton Hotel. With 189 rooms over 23 floors, Woking Hilton will be the perfect place to meet up with friends, with an all-day dining restaurant, stylish lobby and impressive sky bar. In addition to Surrey's biggest ballroom there is also an on-site café open to everyone – a perfect option after a tiring day of retail therapy. It's due to open later in 2022.

To find out more about Victoria Place and keep up to date visit www.wearewoking.com

The way you park in Woking is changing

Work to upgrade existing car park technology and revolutionise the parking experience for visitors to Woking's town centre car parks (Shoppers' Red, Green, Yellow, Blue and Brewery Road) is well underway.

Already operating in Woking's Victoria Way Car Park, the new technology will become operational in phases.

Upon arrival, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) camera technology will soon read your number plate. When ready to leave, simply use the new payment machines to enter your vehicle registration number, pay for the time you've spent parked and away you go! Exit barriers will then automatically rise as you approach.

The new ticketless system eliminates the need for paper tickets and issues with faulty or lost tickets. The method simply requires you to remember your vehicle registration number prior to using the payment machine.

New payment machines will provide flexibility in ways to pay, making the process easier and more convenient. Traditional cash and contactless card payments will be accepted, as well as Apple and Google Pay.

In addition, the Just Park mobile app provides a convenient way to pay online. For a completely contactless parking experience, Just Park's optional AutoPay function records your entry and exit time automatically charging you when you leave. This means tickets and payment machines are a thing of the past and you don't even have to open the app!

For more information about car parks across the borough, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/parking



Short film explains financial matters

To support an independent assessment of Woking Borough Council's financial position, the Council has published online a short film that gives an overview of the review.

Professional services firm, EY, was appointed to produce a comprehensive statement on the Council's financial affairs, including its assets, borrowing, investments and contractual obligations.

Cllr Ayesha Azad, Leader of Woking Borough Council, said: "We have made significant investment in the regeneration of our borough and the services that we provide, ensuring Woking remains a modern and vibrant place to live, work and do business.

"It is essential that our borrowing remains affordable and that our investments provide us with the benefits that support our communities. Therefore, we welcome EY's review and comprehensive and independent assessment of our financial position.

"This short film summarises the EY comprehensive statement, whilst providing valuable context to our borrowing. It identifies key facts from the statement in

an open and transparent manner, whilst importantly identifying the actions we are taking to strengthen our financial approach in response to the report.

"I hope residents will take time to view the informative film, which has been created to help resident understand of our financial position."

To view the film and read the full EY assessment, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/financialreview



Local council elections are coming



On Thursday 5 May 2022, elections will be held in each of the borough's 10 wards to elect councillors to Woking Borough Council. Read on to find out why, when and how to use your right to vote in this coming election.

On **Thursday 5 May 2022**, elections to the borough council will be held in: Byfleet and West Byfleet; Canalside; Goldsworth Park; Heathlands; Hoe Valley; Horsell; Knaphill; Mount Hermon; Pyrford and St Johns.

Your vote can make a real difference. Voting in elections is one of the most effective ways of making sure your voice is heard by decision-makers within your community.

How can I vote?

You must be registered on the Electoral Register to vote in this election. If you are not, you won't be able to vote.

You can register to vote by visiting www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Who can vote?

All British, European Union and qualifying Commonwealth electors on the Electoral Register are entitled to vote in this election.

Not sure if you are registered to vote? Please call **01483 755855** or email elections@woking.gov.uk

How do I vote?

Once registered, there are three ways to cast your vote: in person, by post or by proxy – when someone you trust votes on your behalf. You will need to tell us if you want to vote by post or proxy.

Safe polling stations

To ensure your safety and the safety of polling station staff, we will be following the latest government guidelines at the time of the election, which may include:

- wearing a face covering inside the polling station
- sanitising your hands using the hand sanitiser provided
- maintaining social distancing
- bringing your own pen or pencil to mark your ballot paper, if possible.



How will Woking councillors be elected?

Councillors are elected using a simple majority voting system, known as 'first past the post'. As there is only one vacancy in each ward, electors will have one vote. You will receive a ballot paper for the election.

When you receive your ballot paper there will be a list of candidates standing in your area. Simply mark an 'X' in the box next to your choice of candidate. Once all the votes have been counted, the candidate with the most votes in each ward will be elected.

Key dates for your diary

- To vote in person, you must register to vote by **Thursday 14 April 2022**.
- For postal votes, you must register by **5pm, Tuesday 19 April 2022**.
- To use a proxy vote, you must register by **5pm, Tuesday 19 April 2022** (if proxy wishes to vote by post), or **5pm, Tuesday 26 April 2022** (if proxy is voting in person)

Your right to vote is yours and yours alone. Nobody should stop you from voting or interfere with your right to vote. Nobody can find out how you voted.

For more information about the forthcoming election, including a list of candidates standing in each ward (from Wednesday 6 April 2022), please visit www.woking.gov.uk/elections

You said, we listened

As part of Woking Borough Council’s commitment to establishing effective, ongoing, two-way communication and give a voice to local residents, a series of consultations were held late last year. Here’s what you told us.

Corporate priorities consultation

The purpose was to obtain community feedback in order to inform and influence the Council’s future corporate priorities.

Eight roadshows open to all members of the community were hosted at key community-based locations between October and December 2021, led by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Ayesha Azad, and Chief Executive, Julie Fisher.

The roadshows were complimented by a comprehensive questionnaire open to all residents. In addition, 3,000 paper copies were sent randomly to selected households across the borough.

A total of 161 residents attended the roadshows and 979 questionnaire responses received during the consultation period. Your feedback will go towards shaping the Council’s five-year Corporate Plan for 2022 to 2027.

Your key priorities

Climate change and sustainability was a strong and consistent feature raised at the engagement roadshows, whilst questionnaire responses suggested it was ‘more important’ than many other issues but is not seen as being in most need of improvement.

Building on climate change, your key priorities were:

- keep the borough a safe place for everyone
- take action where required, to deal with anti-social behaviour
- have a council that listens to residents and where everyone can ‘have their say’
- provide support for older, vulnerable people
- take steps to improve traffic flows across the borough
- make it easier to travel around the borough and surrounding areas

- encourage vibrant village high streets by supporting local businesses.

There were a further three corporate priorities that a significant number of respondents said need improvement, which were also mentioned as priorities, but were less important than the seven above. These were:

- tackling homelessness and its causes
- supporting new and established local businesses and shops
- providing more high-quality affordable and key worker homes, to meet the needs of local people.

Engagement from communities was largely on matters that affected them on a day-to-day basis. Key themes included:

- availability of affordable housing
- volume and speed of traffic and condition of roads
- the Council’s investment strategy, financial stability, commitment to consultation
- how the Council is challenging climate change and supporting sustainability, how can it adapt its policies, encourage people to use their cars less and electric vehicle charging
- town centre redevelopment, economy and traffic congestion
- enhancement of cycleways, footpaths, public bus services
- support services for vulnerable people: mental health, homelessness
- how the council is supporting local village economies
- lack of parking provision, enforcement, and within new developments
- partnership working with Surrey County Council, Surrey Police, the NHS, developers and others.

91%
said they had the opportunity to have their say at a roadshow.

95%
of people said they were pleased they had attended a roadshow

95%
of people said they would attend another roadshow.

71%
said they now felt they knew more about the Council’s plans and priorities.

Next steps

We'd like to thank those of you who took the time to attend a roadshow or complete the questionnaire. Your feedback is invaluable. The key priorities identified by communities will be reflected upon and evaluated before informing the Council's five-year Corporate Strategy, which will be presented to the Council's Executive on 24 March 2022.

To review the corporate priorities engagement feedback in full, please visit
www.communityforum.woking.gov.uk

Town Centre Masterplan

Last year, the Council committed to preparing a newly defined Town Centre Masterplan for Woking to help steer future development in partnership with local communities.

The Masterplan will establish an overarching vision for Woking Town Centre that will enable sustainable development including new homes, a thriving retail and business environment, as well as strengthening Woking's cultural and recreational offer.

It will provide a long-term vision of what Woking could look like by 2030 and beyond by working with residents and key stakeholders.

Informed by robust evidence and wide community engagement, the Masterplan will set out detailed standards and principles that deliver the shared vision of Woking Town Centre, such as building heights and density.

Engagement on the Masterplan began late last summer with seven virtual workshops held with Woking Resident Panel members seeking their views on the current development of Woking Town Centre and their aspirations for the future. Meetings were also held with key employers and other stakeholders to understand their future needs and wants for a prosperous future.

Feedback from this phase of engagement revealed that:

- Woking has great transport connectivity, in particular the proximity to airports and motorways, access to London and Guildford and its rail network
- residents really appreciated Woking's proximity to the countryside and green, natural spaces in and around the town
- activities that take place in Jubilee Square and other town centre events are highly regarded

- concerns raised about the impact of new housing on the capacity on infrastructure, in particular education, healthcare and the highway network
- infrastructure should be planned and aligned with the growth of housing and other development in the town centre
- concern raised around dwelling mix and height of development (tall buildings) - new flats are aimed at young people, not families
- concern that a low proportion of the new dwellings will be affordable and that the definition of 'affordable housing' isn't affordable
- there's a need to protect the heritage assets of the area
- developments should be accessible to all users, including disabled users.

These comments, and many like them, will inform the nature and type of masterplan that is prepared.

Once drafted, the next step is to actively engage with all residents in the summer. Information about the draft Masterplan will be well publicised to give everyone the opportunity to comment.

Woking Community Forum

Keep up-to-date with the latest council and partner consultations and have your say on issues that are important to you! Get involved to have your chance to influence local decision-making.

If you're keen to take a more active role in helping to shape our borough, both now and for future generations, Woking Residents' Panel has been created to gain the views of panellists through surveys and focus groups, to help shape the Council's vision for the future. Panellists must be aged 18 or over, a resident of the borough and enthusiastic about participating in local democracy

Visit www.communityforum.woking.gov.uk to find out more.

Your Borough, Your Budget

We have launched an interactive tool that allows residents to prioritise spending across the Council's key service areas. This is your opportunity to let the Council know where you think our spending should be prioritised and where you would like to see the council generate more income. Visit www.communityforum.woking.gov.uk to give it a go yourself.

Bringing housing services in-house

On 31 March 2022, New Vision Home's housing management and maintenance contract will end, with the delivery of these services now managed directly by Woking Borough Council.

The decision to bring housing service back in-house was made following consultation with tenants and leaseholders in February last year. There was clear demand for the council to be more involved in the delivery of these services.

The management and maintenance of council housing stock change will take effect from 1 April 2022. Council housing tenants and leaseholders can expect an improved customer experience and a greater say over how housing services are delivered.

As part of bringing these services back in-house, specialist third party contractors will deliver repairs, planned maintenance and estate cleaning, who will be directly commissioned by the council. This means the council can directly monitor performance to ensure it's getting the best service possible for residents.

Following a rigorous tender and evaluation process, the responsive repairs contract has been awarded to Mountjoy Ltd, an experienced maintenance contractor. The contract requires Mountjoy to reduce waiting times, offer more convenient appointment options and complete repairs first time.

Meanwhile, the long-term estate cleaning contract has been awarded to Just Ask Estate Services, a Woking based facilities management company. Similar to the repairs contract, this involved a two-stage quality evaluation.

In addition to current cleaning tasks, the contract with Just Ask Estate Services includes:

- cleaning of bins and bin stores
- removal of fly-tipping and attending to other anti-social behaviour such as graffiti on housing estates



- external maintenance to housing sites
- cleaning of communal areas on housing estates and more.

Cllr Debbie Harlow, Portfolio Holder for Housing Services, said: "Responding to resident feedback, we are delighted to be able to bring housing management and asset management services back in-house. Tenants and leaseholders can expect an improved customer experience and a greater say over how housing services are delivered.

"The transition back in-house should be seamless, with tenants and leaseholders able to contact us and access our services in the same way.

"This is a positive move for all residents, as our contract with Just Ask Estate, who have a head office in West Byfleet, presents further local employment opportunities."

The specifications for all contracts have been written with residents at the forefront, and with the aim of delivering a high-quality service that is easy to use and accessible to all.

Further opportunities will be available to local businesses in the coming months as the process of awarding additional long-term contracts to local businesses is completed.

For more information about this change, please visit: www.woking.gov.uk/housing

‘Let’s Rent’ your property together

Are you a landlord looking for tenants? Meet local landlord, Ben Parker, who joined Woking Borough Council’s Let’s Rent scheme in May 2021. Since then, Ben hasn’t looked back.



Let’s Rent is a hassle-free way for private landlords to rent their properties to local residents on the Council’s Housing Register in need of housing. The scheme offers long-term tenancies via a range of professional letting services with no fees, commission or hidden charges.

Local resident, Ben Parker, purchased a buy-to-let investment property. As a first-time landlord, Ben had many questions and concerns about renting out his property. That was until he came across the Let’s Rent scheme.

Ben explains: “As a prospective first-time landlord I was apprehensive. Would I find the right agent? How much would the agent charge me? Would I have tenants moving out on a regular basis leaving me with an empty property?”

“I specifically wanted to find a long-term tenant and provide a quality home to someone in need. The Let’s Rent ethos is to find long-term homes for local people so it seemed like the perfect choice.

“I contacted the Let’s Rent team before I’d even purchased a property and they were so helpful. It took around four weeks from completion of purchase to my first tenant moving in.”

The scheme offers many benefits when compared with more traditional methods of renting out a property, including:

- fantastic landlord incentives, advanced rent payments and a generous bond

- no fees when setting up tenancy agreements
- tenant vetting, inventory and regular property inspections are all included in the scheme, which means a higher return than renting on the open market.

Let’s Rent offers three types of letting management services.

- **Core (tenant finding service only)** – we find a tenant who can afford the rent set by you and offer the bond if necessary.
- **Connect (part-managed service)** – as well as finding you a suitable tenant, we also organise all documentation and assist with the management of the property.
- **Complete (fully-managed service)** – rent is paid in advance annually with day-to-day repairs carried out at no extra cost.

Ben continues: “The partially managed service enables me to deal with maintenance issues myself without any fees, but can call on the Let’s Rent team should I need any help finding tradespeople. The service also includes regular inspections of the properties and checking on tenant wellbeing.

“The Let’s Rent team have been active in providing information of all available grants to make energy saving improvements to the property, which will not only help with my tenant’s energy bills, but help improve the value of my investment property.

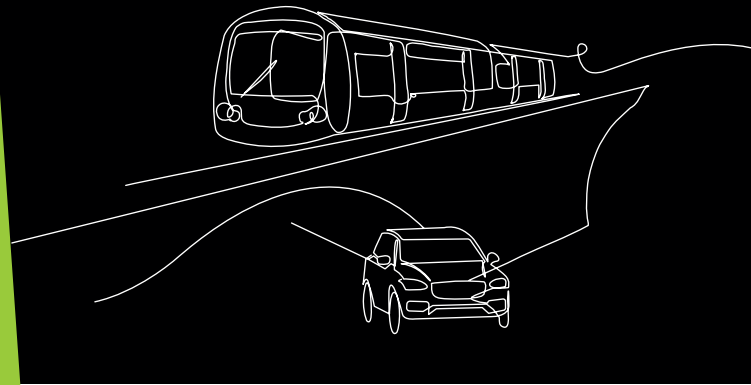
“I would certainly recommend the Let’s Rent scheme and I hope to invest in another property within Woking using the scheme in future.”



Our greatest need is for two-bedroom properties. However, any sized property in Woking will be considered. Properties must be unfurnished and in good condition. Priority is given to providing homes for Woking residents.

To find out more, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/letsrent

VICTORIA ARCH WIDENING SCHEME UPDATE



In October last year, the Council's Executive agreed to reschedule the next significant phases of physical works* until a number of key issues have been progressed.

The key issues include:

- Securing a temporary and permanent access for the aggregates yard and seeking planning permissions.
- Redesigning a section of the A320 on the north-side of Victoria Arch to accommodate a widened highway.
- Progressing the Woking Town Centre Masterplan – the vision for the town centre as the primary focus for sustainable development, economic hub status and inward investment.

(*Smaller exploratory works will continue to prepare for start of the key works.)

Cllr Colin Kemp, Woking Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure, said: "This is a complex project which requires specialist and detailed exploratory works before the key works can commence. We're also listening to local residents who have raised their concerns about how a new permanent access to the aggregates yard could impact on their neighbourhood.

"By engaging with local residents and further aligning with other interdependent projects, we are providing a more joined up and efficient work plan for the town centre, as well as reducing the overall disruption to local residents, businesses, commuters and visitors."

THE AGGREGATES ACCESS ROAD

As reported in the winter issue of the magazine, the access road's existing location significantly impacts on the plans to:

- lower the existing highway running underneath the Victoria Arch.

- create a new, wider highway with increased headroom – suitable for double decker buses.
- provide new, safer segregated paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

Recognising the concerns of local residents, the council continues to investigate options to upgrade the existing access road and also relocate it to an alternative location, via York Road and Bradfield Close. To view the latest options, visit www.woking.gov.uk/victoriaarch

THE TRIANGLE SITE

The final phase of the demolition of existing properties within the Triangle site remains ongoing. The council is continuing its discussions with the remaining few property owners to seek voluntary purchases and avoid Compulsory Purchase Order proceedings. If negotiations do not reach a successful conclusion, a CPO is ready for submission.

Early discussions are also in progress with architects to investigate housing development options for this site.

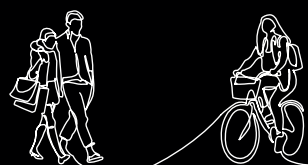
VICTORIA ARCH RAILWAY BRIDGE

Network Rail and its contractor are progressing the design of the replacement railway bridge. These plans will be published in summer/autumn 2022.

ABOUT THE SCHEME

The scheme is a £115 million project managed in partnership by Woking Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Network Rail and Homes England.

For more information about the Victoria Arch widening scheme, including how to sign up to receive project update emails, visit www.woking.gov.uk/victoriaarch



WE ARE UNLOCKING
SPACE FOR NEW HOMES

PROJECT DELIVERY PARTNERS



Next phase of residential housing underway

TRANSFORMING SHEERWATER

Work has commenced on the first wave of housing that will be available for sale within Canalside, the new name given to the central part of Sheerwater undergoing extensive regeneration.



August 2021

ThamesWey has appointed Lifebuild Solutions Ltd to construct Copper phase on the site of the old Sheerwater athletics track. Copper phase is a low-rise residential development delivering 92 high quality family homes ranging in size and style from two bedroom starter homes to five bedroom detached townhouses.

Of the 92 new homes, 79 will be sold, 13 will be affordable. All come with allocated parking, on-plot or within close proximity, and private rear gardens. Some larger, three-storey homes will also have a balcony or roof terrace to provide sufficient amenity space for the whole family.

Copper phase has a number of character areas which will give different parts of the development a distinct look and feel. The landscaping, tree and planting strategies are in keeping with the woodland character of the nearby Basingstoke Canal corridor, and the linear park included in this phase will link the scheme's central park to the canal. A new pedestrian and cycle route, lined with a selection of outdoor gym equipment to form a new trim trail, will connect seamlessly to the canal towpath.

Work on the Copper phase started in August 2021 and is estimated to take two years to complete. Lifebuild Solutions Ltd will deliver 88 of the 92 new homes, with the remainder built at a later stage to maintain access for subsequent phases.

Speaking about the Sheerwater Regeneration Project, Jonathan Sacree, Project Manager for Lifebuild, said: "I was already familiar with the area having worked on a project in Woking previously. Sheerwater has enormous potential and the regeneration scheme will completely transform the area. I have seen the project masterplan and it's got all the right components for Sheerwater to be a thriving community again. Its natural assets such as the canal will only further enhance the full regeneration scheme and it will be exciting to see the end result."



Project Manager, Jonathan Sacree

Six months into the build, the footings for the individual properties are visible and some are built to first floor joist level; drainage works are well underway and the new roads and avenues that connect the development's character areas are being surfaced.

Jonathan continued: "The drainage and services design to Copper phase is the most challenging aspect of this build due to the depth and conditions of the existing ground. We also need to run the drainage and services from site down to Dartmouth Avenue, which is a significant distance to connect with the main sewer and service connections."

For more information about the Sheerwater Regeneration Project and to see construction images for each phase, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/sheerwater



January 2022

Winners of the 2021 Sport Woking Awards revealed

The annual Sport Woking Awards recognise the achievements of Woking's sporting elite and celebrate those involved in helping others to achieve their personal best.

Tyler Panton has been named Woking's 2021 Sports Personality of the Year for his rapid progression on the athletics track.

Well on his way to becoming a world-class athlete, Tyler, a member of Woking Athletic Club, regularly records 100m and 200m sprint times of 10.6 seconds and 21.5 seconds respectively.

Tyler has won gold in the 100m at the Surrey County, SEAA and ESAA championship events, and bronze at the England Athletics National Championships. His performance on the international stage has been just as impressive, finishing third in the 100m at the Loughborough International and the Manchester International athletic events.

Based on his 2021 performance, Tyler is currently ranked 11th in the UK for both the 100m and 200m distances, out of a pool of 411 athletes.

Sports Personality of the Year is the most coveted Sport Woking Award. Previous winners include archer, Louisa Piper (2018); Woking FC skipper, Josh Casey

(2019); and Woking Ladies FC club captain, Kate Davies (2020).

Cllr Colin Kemp, Woking Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Cultural Services, said: "The Sport Woking Awards are for teams and individuals like Tyler, who are at the top of their game or excelling in their chosen discipline. They are also for the unsung heroes of sport – the coaches, referees, groundsman, club treasurers – who inspire and create opportunities for participation, whether that's at a recreational, amateur or professional level.

"Without these passionate and dedicated individuals, we wouldn't have such a diverse and flourishing sports scene in Woking, and I was really impressed with the variety of nominations received, representing a broad spectrum of sporting activities.

"Judging was very difficult because there were so many worthy candidates. I would like to congratulate all of our nominees for their achievements and to say well done to all seven of our award category winners, who this year, also receive some very generous prizes courtesy of our award sponsors."

Sports Personality of the Year

Winner: Tyler Panton, 100m and 200m sprinter, Woking Athletics Club

Sponsored prize: £250 and a basket of fruit, presented by Boz Ahmic from Boz's Fruit & Veg.

Young Sports Personality of the Year

Winner: Rhys Conlon, climber, GB Climbing

Sponsored prize: £150 and a basket of fruit, presented by Boz Ahmic from Boz's Fruit & Veg.



Inclusive Sports Award

Winner: Woking Gymnastics Club for its disability programme

Sponsored prize: An annual gym membership, presented to Edith Nell, Head of Pre-School Gymnastics, by Abby Woodhouse, Active Communities Officer from Freedom Leisure.



Outstanding Service to Sport



Joint winners: Michelle Hammans and Craig Kurn, Meadow Sports FC

Sponsored prize: £100, presented by Matt Clifford, Marketing Director from Seymours Woking.

Community Contribution of the Year

Winner: Remy Pattenden, Woking Netball League

Sponsored prize: £100 presented by Ben Alexander, Marketing Director from Seymours Woking.



Team of the Year

Winner: Woking Girls U11 Schools District Football Team

Sponsored prize: VIP match day experience presented by Woking FC Manager, Alan Dowson and Commercial Director, Mike Livesey.

Health and Wellbeing Champion

Winner: Yasmeen Quyyum for sharing her personal fitness journey to inspire others.

Sponsored prize: £100 voucher and a free annual Tennis in Woking membership, presented by Cllr Colin Kemp, Woking Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture Services.



Trotman Trophy

Winner: Kate Carthy and Hilary Hooper, founders of Cardinals Netball

The Trotman trophy was introduced in 1971 and recognises outstanding performance, development or services to sport.



For more information about the Sport Woking Awards and this year's winners, visit www.woking.gov.uk/sportsawards

Thank you to our 2021 awards sponsors:



Woking News & Mail

Celebrating 25 years of care



Woking & Sam Beare Hospice is this year celebrating its 25th anniversary. This people-centred charity has delivered its care to many thousands of people with life limiting and terminal illnesses over the last two and half decades, as well as providing support services to their carers and families.

Marian Imrie, Chief Executive Officer of the Hospice, shares more about the charity and its work. “It was because of the backing of organisations like Woking Borough Council, local businesses and the generosity of the community that we are now able to reach a very significant milestone - 25 years of delivering our vital care across Woking and North West Surrey.

“But it was the vision of one exceptional man, our founder and life president, Rhod Lofting (and his wife Elizabeth), that saw the doors of the original Woking Hospice at Hill View Road open in December 1996.

“Rhod was the driving force who had the vision to prevent anyone else from experiencing what he did when his own father required end of life care.

“The Hospice has evolved over the years but our 25th anniversary is not just a time to reflect on the past but also a time to recognise how far we have come. The Hospice is now a vital part of the local healthcare economy and our relevance and role has never been so important.

“Throughout the pandemic, we worked tirelessly alongside our NHS colleagues and we have had to

adapt the way that we operate to meet the changing needs of our community so that we now provide specialist “in reach” services to our colleagues at St Peter’s Hospital.

“A “Direct Access Model” has been introduced which has facilitated the rapid transfer of Palliative Care and End of Life patients to the Hospice, which means that we can now provide more care for more patients and their families.

“What is clear is that we would not have been able to do this without a dedicated workforce, past and present Trustees and, of course, all of our supporters. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who has been there for us when we needed them.

“Now, in our 25th year, the Hospice will be hosting a series of special events to mark this occasion and we hope you will join us in our celebrations.”

To find out more about the Hospice’s 25th anniversary events and, how you can help ensure that the Hospice is here for another 25 years, please visit www.wsbhospice.co.uk/25Years



Helping you live well this spring

Living alone can come with its struggles, especially for vulnerable or elderly people and their families. Our Living Well services can give you or someone you know the confidence to live independently with peace of mind that help is at hand.

Careline personal care alarm and sensor

Our community alarm service, Careline, allows you to live independently in your own home, safe in the knowledge that help is available when you need it.



The alarm unit is installed at home together with an alarm button that can be worn discreetly around your neck or on your wrist. Whether you're at home or in your garden, you're never too far away from help.

Careline also supports a range of telecare sensors too such as a bed sensor, door sensor and smoke detector, for complete peace of mind.

Careline can offer you:

- freedom and independence
- confidence and security at home
- care and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year
- links with NHS, adult social services and other care providers
- regular visits from Careline staff
- no hidden costs with free installation and servicing
- quality assurance.

Take advantage of our special free six week trial open to all borough residents of Woking!

Contact us to arrange a free, no obligation demonstration by calling **01483 743647**, email **careline@woking.gov.uk** or visit **www.woking.gov.uk/careline**

Assisting Independent Living

Our Independent Support service officers visit vulnerable and elderly people when in need of additional help. Visits are flexible and tailored to individual needs.

Services range from daily visits for high, more complex needs, to monthly welfare visits.

The services are aimed at residents who have early-stage dementia, physical disabilities, or are experiencing loneliness. Our officers can be there through periods of change and to assist at key moments such as being discharged from hospital, recovering from illness or bereavement.

'Pop in' visits are also available. These are one off visits designed to address simple needs which can be resolved within an hour. This may include assistance with completing forms, or a social call when carers or relatives are unavailable.



To find out more about how this service could benefit you, call **01483 743987**, email **independent.support@woking.gov.uk**

There are many other Living Well services that you could be benefitting from in your everyday life including handyman services, community meals and our centres for the community. For more information on all our services, please visit **www.woking.gov.uk/livingwell**



Discover...

Goldsworth Park Recreational Ground

Situated in the heart of Goldsworth Park, this park offers something for everyone in the community. Whether you're into your sports, looking to entertain the kids or just admiring the local flora and fauna, this is the perfect spot!

Goldsworth Park Recreational Ground

Access is off Wishbone Way, GU21 3RT

By foot: There are multiple pedestrian access points into the recreation ground, including via Littlewick Road, Goldsworth Park Shopping Centre and Wishbone Way.

Parking: The site has a large car park accessible from the main entrance off Wishbone Way.

Public Transport: There are regular buses to Goldsworth Park from Woking Town Centre. The bus stop along Kirkland Avenue is only a short walk from Wishbone Way where the main entrance is located. Alternatively, alight at Goldsworth Park Shopping Centre and access on foot.

Accessibility: There is a network of accessible surfaced paths throughout the park, including around the lake.

Facilities: There is a children's play area, outdoor gym equipment, multi-use games area and cycle track. Public toilets are available at Goldwater Lodge adjacent to the main car park.

Opening times: This recreation ground is always open.

Best time to visit: All year round!

Nature and wildlife

The lake is the heart of the grounds and a highlight for many, but the waters and surrounding vegetation isn't just for decoration! It offers an important local habitat for a variety of ducks and other water-based bird species, including Coots, Moorhens and even the occasional Kingfisher.

The North Meadow is an open grassland habitat which supports a variety of butterflies and other invertebrate species. Some lucky visitors might also get the chance to see other birds and mammals such as bats in the nearby woodland areas.

Through its Natural Goldsworth Park initiative, the Goldsworth Park Community Association (GPCA) has been working in partnership with Woking Borough Council to enhance the ecology and biodiversity of the North Meadow.

Upgraded cycle track

Earlier this year, following public consultation, the existing cycle track at Goldsworth Park was upgraded, improving the quality of the facility while retaining its open access and free use.

The upgraded cycle track now offers:

- a fully asphalted circuit consisting of small mounds to help cyclists generate momentum
- an all-weather mountain bike circuit
- a grass track circuit with features to support the existing coaching which local clubs already deliver.

The upgrade has turned the track into a dedicated



Goldwater Lodge

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© The Goldsworth Park Community Association (GPCA)



cycling facility for cyclists of all abilities to use all year round, as well as for local clubs and schools to teach children to ride. The track has established itself as a hub for junior cycling in the borough, with Woking Cycling Club and Charlotteville Cycling Club running organised cycling activities for children.

Other sports and leisure

Plenty of different sporting pursuits take place across

Want us to 'Discover' somewhere in Woking?

If you have a place you love to visit that you want to share, we'd love to hear from you! Get in touch by emailing marketing.communications@woking.gov.uk

Rules and regulations

Visitors are asked to respect fellow site users and follow the byelaws found on information signage across the recreation ground. This includes taking litter home or using the bins provided, keeping dogs under control and not lighting fires or BBQs.

Planning on feeding the ducks? Ducks need a varied diet so not consider feeding them oats, grains, lettuce, sweetcorn, peas or halved grapes.

Top tip: Brown bread is better for ducks. If it is stale and dry, soak it in water and crumble it so it is easier for them to digest!

Please do not to leave excess food on the ground as this can attract vermin.



the recreation ground and lake, including football, hockey, skate boarding, angling and boating.

The recreation ground is home to Goldsworth Park Rangers Football Club, who have over 500 children playing each week, one of the largest junior football clubs in Surrey. Whilst the two floodlit all-weather hockey pitches and sports pavilion are home to Woking Hockey Club.

Meanwhile, the lake supports the activities of the Goldsworth Park Angling Club, Woking Sea Cadets and Radio Sailing Woking.



For more information about these clubs, and many more across the borough, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/sportsdirectory



PLANET WOKING

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE LOCALLY

Climate change is a global issue but one that can be tackled locally.

Planet Woking was launched in September 2020 to raise awareness of local action being taken by the Council and its partners to meet our carbon neutral goals; but also to inspire and encourage you to join us and continue to play your part in looking after our environment.

Woking Borough Council has long been committed to environmental issues. This year marks the 20 year anniversary of our first climate change strategy!

Many of our activities and projects continue to be made possible through working together with commercial and volunteer partners, to meet our common environmental goals. Organisations include ThamesWey, Action Surrey, Woking Environment Action, Surrey Heathland Partnership and Surrey Wildlife Trust to name just a few. These partnerships are ever more important as we work towards our target for net zero across the Council estate by 2030 and by 2050 across the wider borough.

As we progress into 2022, it's a great opportunity to reaffirm our

continuing commitment to this agenda and look ahead at what we have planned for the months ahead:

- Feedback from the community has shown that you support local climate action as a continuing key priority. Climate change will be at the core of Woking Borough Council's new Corporate Strategy
- A refreshed climate change strategy will ensure our net zero commitments are front and centre
- Electric vehicle infrastructure will be increased significantly this year with over 70 new charging bays becoming available in Woking Town Centre
- Local biodiversity will continue to get a boost with more planting of wildflowers
- New developments will be guided by the latest good practice with a revised Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document
- Households across the borough will continue to benefit from

government grant funding for energy efficiency improvements

We can't do this alone and continuing collaborative work with our local authority partners will be crucial. Surrey County Council's Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan sets out what needs to be achieved to decarbonise the whole county by 2050 and we will be working together towards these goals.

You can find out more about Woking's green initiatives and our work with partners at www.planetwoking.co.uk. More information about Surrey County Council's climate plans is available at www.surreycc.gov.uk.

For ideas and inspiration on how you can get involved check out www.planetwoking.co.uk and subscribe to our newsletters for all the latest local environmental news and events.

There's no doubt that zero carbon will be challenging, but by working together to make changes to the way we live, no matter how small, we can all make a difference to Planet Woking.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

email: hello@planetwoking.co.uk or visit: www.planetwoking.co.uk

Family to a Window into Scottish Art

Discover inspiring and diverse exhibitions for all to enjoy this spring at The Lightbox Gallery and Museum – it's more than just a gallery.

Family

29 March to 10 April 2022, free entry

Eight artists from Surrey and beyond have come together in an exclusive new exhibition exploring the diverse theme of family and its various shapes, colours and forms. This exhibition aims to explore what family really means to us. We all have our own story about the people we love and the family unit that is intrinsic to human development. This is ours.



Bridget Riley: Pleasures of Sight

Until 10 April 2022

Celebrating the 90th birthday of one of the most important and influential British artists of the past century. This retrospective exhibition maps Riley's epic exploration of colour, pattern and perception throughout a career spanning seven decades and features examples of her renowned black and white 'Op Art' works created in the 1960s.

A Window into Scottish Art

22 April to 3 July 2022

Explores landmark periods and themes that shine a spotlight on the character, inspiration and talent of Scottish artists and provoke new ways of defining their achievements. From Robert the Bruce, the Glasgow School and the Scottish Colourists to generations of international modernists and present-day contemporary artists, contrasting sides of the Scot's psyche will be explored.

Garden in the Box

9 April 2022, free entry

Join us for a one-day festival celebrating the positive power of gardening. Free in our courtyard will be representatives from RHS Wisley, a pop-up by local florist Poppies and Peonies, the Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey Bee's and our volunteers will be running a Plant Exchange swap table.



Women in photography private view 2019 © The Lightbox

Become a Lightbox Member for as little as £30 a year and enjoy free unlimited entry to all exhibitions, discounts across the programme and invites to exclusive events and Private Views. For more information and to become a member today visit www.thelightbox.org.uk

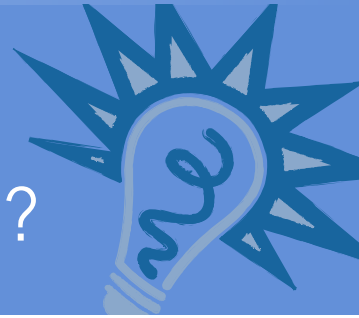
The Lightbox has a full schedule of workshops and events to get adults and little ones alike egg-cited over the Easter break and May half term!

Let little ones go wild at one of The Lightbox's free drop-in workshops. Create your own self portrait cress head out of recycled materials, on **Wednesday 6 April**, or pop into Cotton Tail Bunnies to make fun Easter Bunnies on **Wednesday 13 April**. Drop by anytime from 1.30pm–4pm.

May half term offers a selection of drop-in and bookable creative workshops. Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year with us and create your own castle to view your own kingdom on **Tuesday 31 May** or create a crown and become your own member of royalty on **Wednesday 1 June!**

For a full list of upcoming activities and exhibitions, visit www.thelightbox.org.uk

Why don't you... try women-only exercise classes?



Local charity Shifa Network offer exercise classes for ladies in the Sheerwater and the wider Woking area. Whether you're looking to improve your physical health, practice your existing skills, or just trying something new, there are plenty to choose from.



Run by local ladies Saima and Khalda, Shifa Network's mission is to empower South Asian women and promote wellbeing through their affordable and enjoyable sessions.

Why not try out the popular yoga classes? Many of the ladies have seen a big improvement in their ability and flexibility and have been able to advance through a whole range of moves since starting. If you prefer seated yoga, this is also available so you can get involved no matter what your ability!

If you've always wanted to learn how to ride a bike but never had the chance, this is your time to gear up and get started. Register for one of the 'cycling for beginners' or 'Improver Rides' classes at Sheerwater Youth Centre and you'll learn the key skills you need in a safe, off-road location. You don't even need to own a bike as Shifa has some of their own.

If you'd like to find out more about what Shifa offers or get updates on new activities, get in touch and join the mailing list.

Email: admin@shifanetwork.org.uk
Website: www.shifanetwork.org.uk
Phone: 07897 316978

Class timetable:

Yoga: Parkview Centre for the Community, Mondays, 12.45pm - 1.45pm or 1.45pm - 2.45pm

Virtual Yoga (on Zoom): Tuesdays, 1pm – 2pm


Virtual Seated Yoga (on Zoom): Mondays 10am – 11am

Cycling: Courses run throughout the year at Sheerwater Youth Centre. Get in touch with Shifa for more information.

The groups are very sociable and supportive of each other's achievements. Participating in these classes can benefit your mental health, as well as your physical health. All women are welcome whatever your background!

New classes coming soon including table tennis, Zumba and swimming! Beyond their sporting activities, Shifa also offer a range of classes and short courses such as English for speakers of other languages, driving theory, outings, coffee mornings and essential digital skills to help promote independence and wellbeing.





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