Access council services where you need them

We’re putting resident services where you need them as we create three new service hubs with longer opening hours.

Our first new service hub has opened at Windsor Library where you can access a wide range of council services when you need them.

We have created a new library and resident service team who can help you with queries ranging from council tax and housing advice to school admissions and environmental services.

At a time when many libraries across the country are closing we are providing more services to our residents from these vital community hubs.

In July the service hubs at Maidenhead and Ascot Libraries will also go live.

Cllr Samantha Rayner, cabinet member for culture and communities, said: “We want to provide services where you need and at the most convenient time.

“You will be able to access council services from the three libraries seven days a week. They will be open longer in locations closer to where people live.

“Our libraries are already incredibly well-used and by creating these three new hubs we are placing services firmly at the centre of our communities.”

Each library will have private consulting spaces available for confidential conversations with staff.

A large number of the services are also available online and calls can still be made to 01628 683800 with staff now available seven days a week under new opening hours.

From Saturday 1 July residents who would have visited the Town Hall will be directed to Maidenhead Library instead.

Library opening hours

Windsor
1 June – 30 June
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

From 1 July
Windsor
Monday 9am-5pm
Tuesday 9am-7pm
Wednesday 10am-5pm
Thursday 9am-5pm
Friday 9am-7pm
Saturday 9.30am-5pm
Sunday 11am-2pm

Ascot
Monday 10am-7pm
Tuesday 10am-5pm
Wednesday 10am-5pm
Thursday 10am-7pm
Friday 10am-5pm
Saturday 10am-1pm
Sunday 11am-2pm

Maidenhead
Monday 9am-7pm
Tuesday 9am-7pm
Wednesday 10am-7pm
Thursday 9am-7pm
Friday 9am-7pm
Saturday 9am-5pm
Sunday 11am-2pm

Services available at the libraries

- Council tax  •  benefits  •  green waste  •  report a missed bin  •  removal of large waste
- planning and elections  •  street-lighting  •  potholes and fly-tipping reporting  •  housing options
- parking  •  school admissions  •  environmental services  •  licensing  •  blue badges

To find out more go to our website www.rbwm.gov.uk
Nicola Robinson
Library and museums outreach officer
I have worked for the library service for four years, first as a library assistant and now currently as a library outreach officer, going around the borough promoting the fantastic library service to residents, schools and the community.

In the four years I have been working for the library I have been lucky to see the service grow and expand.

Now with the new service and extended opening hours it will make all libraries more accessible and provide the best service we can to residents.

This new service will help strengthen our libraries, bring in more customers and I am excited to show them what the library offers.

Nathan White
Senior customer services advisor
This is a great move. We are providing services where our residents need and want them.

I've been at the council ten years and I have got used to being in the Town Hall but I am excited about this merger as it makes logical sense.

We have just started working together but it has been great learning about different parts of the council and I am looking forward to seeing how the two teams can work together.

We need to be accessible to the community and we need to put their needs first so I know residents will benefit from this.

And now I am based in Maidenhead Library I am finding more time to hunt out my favourite horror books.

Working together with CAB
Citizens Advice Maidenhead & Windsor is delighted to be working with the library and resident services team to offer free advice appointments every Wednesday afternoon in Windsor Library.

This appointments only service is in addition to the existing drop-in and advice appointments which are available at Citizens Advice in Maidenhead.

Christine O’Hare, CEO of Citizens Advice Maidenhead & Windsor, said: “By working with the library and resident services team we can make our advice available to more people who live or work in the borough in a location that suits them. This service will make life easier for Windsor residents or workers with complex issues who need an appointment and who can’t easily travel to Maidenhead.”

For free, confidential, independent and impartial advice or to book an appointment in Maidenhead or Windsor call us on 03444 111 444 or visit www.maidenheadcab.org.uk

IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY FOR A COURSE
THinking about college after your GCSEs?

BCA is a Further and Higher Education College with a land-based specialism located in Burchetts Green, Maidenhead. We offer our full-time learners everything from Animal Management to Art & Design, Media Production to Motor Vehicle.

There’s still time to apply for all of our courses for a September 2017 start.

Find out more and apply at: www.bca.ac.uk

#InspireYourFuture

BCA (Berkshire College of Agriculture), Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR
Brighter Berkshire update

The Royal Borough’s public health consultant Teresa Salami-Oru writes about the successes of Brighter Berkshire’s Year of Mental Health as we approach the halfway point.

We’re proud to be sponsoring the Brighter Berkshire Year of Mental Health and it’s a great way to help us change the way we think and how we work to fully support people’s needs.

I’ve been blown away by the reaction to this campaign locally: it’s so important that we keep conversations about mental health in the public eye.

In just a few months we’ve managed to take some really positive steps forward within the council and I’m pleased to say that a lot of this early success has been targeted towards the children and young people in our borough.

By establishing a schools network and offering mental health awareness training in local secondary schools we’re getting rid of the taboo of talking about mental health early on and making sure that children and young people know that this is something that can affect everyone.

But this work doesn’t just stop in schools, we want to lead by example at the Royal Borough so we’ve also been offering mental health first aid training to all our managers to ensure that staff, as well as our residents, get the support they need and know how to identify when someone may need help.

We’ve also got our wider workforce involved and council staff volunteered to be mental health champions. We hope that this grows so that we can develop a network of champions and ambassadors throughout the community.

Outside the council there is some great partnership working across the whole of Berkshire to launch a county-wide suicide prevention strategy which has been approved by all Berkshire Health & Wellbeing Boards. Locally we have developed a draft Suicide Prevention action plan for the Royal Borough which will go out for consultation in the next few weeks.

Improving the mental health and wellbeing of people in Berkshire, particularly our most vulnerable residents, is exactly what Brighter Berkshire is about and I look forward to seeing where we take this work in the coming months.

Dial 999 for all suspected strokes

The reconfigured stroke service for East Berkshire went live in 1 May and there’s only one number to dial if you suspect someone is having a stroke. It’s 999.

Local people suspected of having a stroke should be taken straight to their nearest hyper acute stroke unit by ambulance to receive the best possible care.

These are:
- Frimley Park Hospital, Camberley.
- Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.
- St Peter’s Hospital, Chertsey.
- Wycombe General Hospital, High Wycombe.

While stroke services have been improving for more than 430,000 people living in east Berkshire, a small number of people are still ending up at Wexham Park Hospital, which no longer has an acute stroke unit.

However, it does have a new stroke rehabilitation unit which cares for patients transferred from Wycombe after 10 days if they still need in-patient care and rehabilitation.

Most Royal Borough stroke patients who would previously have gone to the acute stroke unit at Wexham Park Hospital in Slough now go to the hyper acute stroke unit at Wycombe Hospital.

Ascot patients are largely unaffected, as almost seven out of ten were already going to the hyper acute stroke units at Frimley Park Hospital or the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

By improving people’s quality of life following a stroke and helping more people to remain independent at home these new arrangements are expected to help save lives.
More help for substance users

A better and broader service for adults living with alcohol or drug dependence has been formally relaunched as Resilience.

The new service brings together a number of community partners to support those living with substance problems.

The Royal Borough has recommissioned a series of contracts that will give residents who need help dealing with alcohol and drug-related issues access to a wider range of support, with longer opening hours and in more locations.

Cllr Stuart Carroll, principal member for public health, said: "It was an honour to be part of the launch event for Resilience as we focus our efforts on those who need help most." Central to this service is the wider approach that takes into account people's varying needs, including their mental, as well as physical, health - a key priority for us, especially during the Brighter Berkshire Year of Mental Health.

The launch event included the partners the council has recently signed contracts with - Cranstoun and the Claremont and Holyport Practice.

Cranstoun, a well established organisation in this field, won the tender for the community alcohol and drug service, now named Resilience. The Claremont and Holyport Practice will continue to run the prescribing service.

Peter Glass, director of operations at Cranstoun, said: "We are delighted to be given the opportunity to work in partnership with the Royal Borough to manage, develop and progress service provision for people who use substances and who require help. "We have hit the ground running at Resilience thanks to the flexible and professional approach of our local team.

"Our services include partnerships with local organisations and mental health teams, community outreach and engagement, mutual aid, harm reduction and health initiatives such as needle exchange services, pharmacological treatment interventions including a prescribing service, and access to education, training and employment services."

Both contracts started in April and will potentially last for five years. To discuss alcohol and drug problems call Resilience on 01628 796733. The new contracts only cover services for adults. The borough's provision for young people is delivered directly by the council through the youth service team.

New community service commissioned to help people with life-limiting illnesses

A new provision to help people with life-limiting illnesses manage their condition at home has been launched in East Berkshire.

The service is managed by Thames Hospice and includes a palliative care telephone service offering free advice.

The specialist team is available 24/7, 365 days a year, to provide guidance on symptom control, practical advice and emotional support.

There is also a Rapid Response Team (RRT), made up of a registered nurse and health care assistant, who can make urgent visits to patients on the end-of-life care register and support their loved ones.

Jacqui Batchford, Thames Hospice director of patient and family services, said: "I am delighted that we are able to offer this new service to further support those people in our community who are facing the last year of their life."

The offering has been commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Groups in the east of Berkshire.

If you or someone you know requires support or advice on palliative or end-of-life care, please call the team on 01753 848925.

ASCOT GRANGE - CARE & NURSING HOME

NOW OPEN

As of the end of June we have opened our doors to welcome new residents. Ascot Grange offers Signature’s exceptional residential and nursing care with outstanding facilities and services, all within a comfortable, friendly and home-like environment.

Call us today to arrange a personal visit and to find out more. 72 private apartments that vary from studios to one bedroom suites and 24 specialist dementia suites, designed especially to offer unique support for those requiring specialist dementia care.

For more information or to book a tour of our stunning new home call Wendy or Robin today

01344 798352

Ascot Grange, Bagshot Road,
Ascot, Berkshire. SL5 9PR
Email: enquiries.ascot@signaturesl.co.uk
www.signature-care-homes.co.uk
Achieving for Children update

Preparations for our new partnership to deliver children’s services through Achieving for Children (AfC) are well underway.

AfC is a community interest company that is jointly owned by councils in Richmond and Kingston and from August 1 the Royal Borough will also become a joint owner.

From then all children’s services staff will continue to support and care for our young people but will instead be employed by AfC.

Kevin McDaniel is the recently appointed Director of Children’s Services and he will be working to ensure services continue to be delivered to a high standard.

He said: “By joining this partnership with Achieving for Children the young people we care for and work with will benefit from the combined experience of an award-winning workforce.

“Now that we have got all the preparation sorted I look forward to beginning work with our new colleagues as we strive together to make sure that all young people in our area can get the best possible start to their lives.”

Governors needed

Are you looking for more ways to get involved in your local community? Then why not consider applying to be a school governor?

It’s a chance to make a difference by helping with the important decisions that ensure children get the best education possible.

We have 66 schools in the borough served by around 1,000 governors and there are currently a number of vacancies that need filling.

Anyone who cares about the welfare of children and their education can become a governor. One of the best things is the variety of life experiences that governors can bring to the board when discussing areas such as finance, overseeing the curriculum and staff appointments.

Cllr Natasha Airey said: “I would encourage anyone who is interested in becoming a school governor to get in touch.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference in the way that children’s education is shaped and keep schools closely tied to their local communities.”

For more information contact us on governors@rbwm.gov.uk or call 01628 796960.

Supporting our foster families

All foster carer families living in the Royal Borough were given free tickets to spend the day at the LEGOLAND Windsor Resort as a thank you for the incredible work they do.

Nearly 40 families benefited from the annual giveaway this year.

The theme park’s director was joined by the council’s managing director Alison Alexander and cabinet member for children’s services Cllr Natasha Airey to present the gifts.

Simon Lane, divisional director at the LEGOLAND Windsor Resort, said: “Supporting our local community is incredibly important to us and we have been providing LEGOLAND tickets to local foster carer families for the past 10 years.”

Cllr Natasha Airey, cabinet member for children’s services, said: “It’s lovely to see our children and young people enjoying days out, and we are very fortunate to have so many wonderful attractions in the borough that families can enjoy all year round.”

Saving energy in our schools

Trinity St Stephen first school in Windsor were our first winners of our energy saving competition.

Congratulations to pupils and teachers who managed to cut energy consumption at the school by 38 per cent.

Children made an effort to save energy by closing doors at playtime and turning off lights, computers and printers when they were not being used.

Michael Potter, energy reduction manager for the Royal Borough, said: “The competition was set up as a great way for schools to get involved with saving energy. The participating schools got really involved with the competition and made some great savings.

Hopefully they will be able to keep the savings going until the next competition.”

Winners: L-R The council’s energy reduction manager Michael Potter joins Cllr Coppinger, last year’s Mayor Cllr Luxton, Cllr Mills, the school’s science leader Emily Manners and pupils.

To find out more go to our website www.rbwm.gov.uk
New partnership for adult services

We are delighted that we have completed the transfer of Royal Borough staff into Optalis Ltd, a local authority trading company owned by both councils to provide adult services.

Three of our residents enjoying the services provided at Boyne Grove.

Residents are benefitting from a more resilient service which is being provided by a larger pool of staff who can share their best practice and expertise while still maintaining the same local connections to the existing staff and venues they already know and use.

Cllr David Coppinger, cabinet member for adult services and health at the Royal Borough, said: “I am delighted that we had a smooth transition of staff and they are now beginning an exciting new chapter.”

“The partnership with Wokingham Borough Council puts us in a much stronger position to ensure our residents are cared for and supported throughout their lives.”

“We know that adult social care is a key issue on many people’s minds and we know this partnership will help us to protect those more vulnerable residents who need extra support, as well as opening up more opportunities for staff to progress their careers within a larger organisation.”

Wokingham Borough Council, said: “Our companies continue to grow and mature, setting a high standard for local authority companies across the country. It is a great success that will save taxpayers’ money whilst improving our social care services.”

“Optalis continues to prove its stature and reputation as an outstanding care provider in the area.”

Adult services staff in the borough will still work from the same buildings and in the same roles and residents will only notice a change in the logos on badges and paperwork.

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead will still be accountable for the standards of practice and retain its statutory responsibility for adult services.

Optalis was created by Wokingham Borough Council in 2011 as a way of giving the council more opportunities to enhance some of its care provisions.

Both councils approved the partnership last October and since then officers from the Royal Borough have been working closely with their counterparts at Optalis and Wokingham Borough Council to ensure a smooth transition.

Chatter boxes help those with dementia

Sharing memories are, seated from left, service users Kathy, Eddie and Sylvia with Boyne Grove staff member Sheila.

Chatter boxes are now available to loan for those with dementia. These are themed reminiscence boxes filled with lots of items to touch, feel and see to help stir memories or start a conversation.

Maidenhead chatter box sessions are run on the last Wednesday of every month between 10.30am and 11.30am at Boyne Grove Library. The session is supported by Boyne Grove Resource Centre staff and library staff. Windsor Day Centre in Imperial Road runs chatter box sessions on the second Tuesday of the month from 11am to 12noon.

Cllr David Coppinger, cabinet member for adult services and health, said: “We are launching this initiative to help residents with dementia to interact and socialise.”

Cllr Samantha Rainger, cabinet member for culture and communities, added: “Depending on the popularity, the scheme could be extended to other libraries in the future.”

Calling all Tractor & HGV drivers! Snow plough operators required

Rayner Farms are seeking snow plough operators to work at Heathrow Airport.

We are also looking for experienced plant/tractor operators, bus and HGV drivers. Paid training starts from the 1st September 2017.

Rayner Farms Ltd

Applicants must live within 40 miles of Heathrow Airport and will require the appropriate security checks. No agencies please.

Please email CV and mobile number to: collm.rayner@ma.com

www.raynerandsons ltd.co.uk
Winton Garden

A memorial garden in honour of the late Sir Nicholas Winton has been opened for residents and visitors to enjoy.

The garden in Oaken Grove Park, Maidenhead includes a railway sleeper lined trail, ornamental ponds and areas of wildflowers.

The space is themed to reflect Sir Nicholas’ life and his saving of 669 children from occupied territories at the dawn of World War Two.

It also features a number of quotes that were selected by his family.

Cllr Samantha Rayner, cabinet member for culture and communities, said: “This is a lovely new space and I’m so pleased to hear that people have already been out enjoying this new garden.”

“It’s a great way for us to pay tribute to Sir Nicholas and his inspiring legacy.”

Construction was completed last month and a formal opening event, including opportunities for the whole community to get involved, are planned for later this summer.

Free WiFi coming to your high streets

Residents and visitors can now access free WiFi in Windsor and Maidenhead town centres, as well as downloading new official mobile applications.

Intechnology WiFi has installed next generation wireless networks in Windsor and Maidenhead, which went live earlier this month, allowing residents and visitors to connect seamlessly while out and about. Users can access the free WiFi by selecting RBWM Free WiFi from the list of available WiFi networks on their mobile or WiFi-enabled device.

Intechnology WiFi has also provided new official mobile applications for both towns, under the brand of Citi-Wise, allowing users to discover and book a host of new and exciting activities.

The Citi-Wise app can be downloaded from both the Apple (iOS) and Google Play (Android) app stores.

Steph James, Maidenhead town centre manager, said: “Our high streets are becoming even more vibrant places and access to free WiFi is just another reason why this is such a great place to live, work and play.”

Natalie Duffield, chief executive of Intechnology WiFi, said: “We are excited to be working with the Royal Borough and are proud to be investing in the two towns.”

For further information, see www.RBWMFreeWIFI.com, and for Citi-Wise log-on to www.citi-wise.com
New provider for arts centre

The Old Court in Windsor is going to be run by a new provider. The popular arts centre will remain open and at the heart of the town’s cultural offer as the former and current operators work together for a smooth transition over the summer.

Martin Denny Management Ltd will then takeover from 1 October.

Cllr Malcolm Alexander, deputy lead member for Windsor and Eton, said: “We look forward to working with both the current and new providers over the coming months during this transition phase.

“We would also like to thank Firestation CIC for everything they have done during their time as arts delivery partner for Windsor.”

Cllr Malcolm Alexander

War Horse statue gathering pace

A bronze horse will be erected next year in Ascot to honour the millions of UK, Allied and Commonwealth horses, mules and donkeys lost during The Great War of 1914-18.

A scaled down version was unveiled at The Mayor’s Charity Ball last month.

Last year’s Mayor Cllr Sayonara Luxton who is also ward member for Sunningdale has been a strong advocate of the idea of a national War Horse Memorial since the idea was first presented over three years ago.

Cllr Luxton said: “I have been a huge supporter of a national monument to honour the nobility, courage and immeasurable contribution these animals played in giving us the freedom of democracy we all enjoy today.

And where better than our great Royal Borough with its association with horses – both military and equine - for it to be sited”.

Alan Carr MBE, co-founder of The War Horse Memorial, said: “Planning and devising a national monument takes time and patience and we are grateful to not only elected councillors but also to the staff for their help and guidance.

The monument is expected to be unveiled in summer 2018.

Private funding will pay for all costs relating to the horse statue and a nearby stone monolith created by the sculptor Susan Leyland.

The organisers are currently looking for six Honorary Patrons who will have their names inscribed on the Remembrance Monolith.

For further information please email alan@thewarhorsememorial.org or visit the website www.thewarhorsememorial.org

Windsor, Eton and Ascot events

There’s a great selection of events in Windsor and Eton over the next few months.

Starting with markets, you can choose from the Farmers Market in St Leonards Road on the first Saturday of every month, Castle View Fruit and Vegetable Stall in Peasgood Street every Friday and Saturday, the Independent Food Market, Peasgood Street, Windsor on the third weekend in the month and Ascot Farmers Market in Ascot High Street on the third Sunday in the month.

The Alexandra Gardens bandstand was opened last year and there is a programme of entertainment over weekends in August. The last weekend of August, Alexandra Gardens is hosting the Windsor Food Festival, showcasing food products and produce from around the country.

Sunday 2 July  Party in the Park takes place at Victoria Park, Sunninghill.

Saturday 15 July  The annual Royal Windsor Rose and Horticultural Show takes place in the Chapter Gardens in the grounds of Windsor Castle.

Saturday 22 July  Windsor & Eton EnPlein Air takes place. The open air painting event and competition open to both amateur and professional artists and artists’ groups. Artists are invited to create their own masterpiece over a six and a half hour period, with the top pictures voted for by the public.

Sunday 23 July  Dorney Lake is hosting a new triathlon event.

Saturday 5 August  The night market returns to Windsor’s Peasgood Street.

Grab your Advantage Card for summer offers

The Advantage Card has some exciting new offers available for residents this summer.

Residents already get free entry to Windsor Castle, discounted parking in council car parks and over 200 local discounts.

New to the scheme and great news for sporty residents are national retailers Snow+Rock, Cycle Surgery and Runners Need. Available online, the stores sell sport-specific clothing and equipment.

The Advantage Card scheme has mainly promoted days out, shopping and dining but recently we have been approached by service businesses looking to make offers to residents.

We have negotiated up to 15% off white goods from Hotpoint and Whirlpool so residents can now get a choice of fridges, washing machines, coffee machines and similar with their Advantage Cards.

A first care provider for our listing is Heritage Health based in Windsor. The team are able to provide home care services and support services within their clients' homes and provide a range of care, companionship and housekeeping services such as accompanying clients to social events, meal preparation and light gardening.

Local dentist Maria White Dentistry is offering dental treatments at 10% off and DigitalMediaWeb is offering 25% discount off your bespoke website design and SEO.

New to the scheme from Datchet is local shop Jewellery Box London selling bespoke bridal and contemporary jewellery, a unique blend of Western sophistication with eye catching Eastern glamour.

With summer holidays on the way, residents can use their cards for a range of days out with family and friends over the holidays. See the discount listings on the website for full details, most popular are 50% off day tickets at Legoland, 10% off French Brothers boat trips, £4 off Windsor Duck Tours and £5 off racing at Ascot.

Don't forget to renew your subscription every two years. We ask residents to keep the same card as long as they live in the borough, but keep their subscription updated. Renewals can be done in person with a proof of address at an issuing centre or through the online form on the website. Sign up to our e-newsletter for regular offers and competitions.

For more information visit www3.rbwm.gov.uk/advantagecard

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TURNING COURSES INTO CAREERS

As your local college, we can help you shape your career, your life and your future. With over 800 full-time and part-time courses, state-of-the-art facilities, qualified careers advisers and industry-trained staff, we can help you develop your skills and turn your ambitions into a reality.

For more details on our new courses, including apprenticeships and Higher Education, please call 01753 793000 or visit www.eastberks.ac.uk

Windsor College
St Leonards Road
Windsor
Berkshire SL4 3AZ

Langley College
Station Road
Langley
Berkshire SL3 8BY

East Berkshire College is a charity which exists to provide education to the community.
How member budgets were spent in the community

All our councillors are allocated £750 a year to award to local community initiatives or projects. This money can either be pooled with other ward members, or adjoining wards, and members can liaise with parishes, community groups, residents or businesses. The money can also be carried over to the next financial year.

This year’s allocations were spent on:

ASCOT AND CHEAPSIDE
Cllr Hilton and Dr L Evans - Cheapside Village Hall improvements.

BELMONT
Cllr Love - Save the Craufurd Arms campaign.
Cllr Mills - Alley Group to renew equipment such as gloves and clippers and publicity. Rest still to be allocated.
Cllr Targowska - hanging baskets for Bath Road in Belmont (last year’s budget also used for this) and £148 to St Lukes Toddlers Group for new toys.

BISHAM AND COOKHAM
Cllr Kellaway - Cookham Twinning (Cookham is twinned with St Benoit in France) and The Sequoia Foundation who help Alzheimer’s and dementia sufferers.
Cllr Saunders - Cookham Society - donating to two different projects: Save Poundfield and Chicken Farm.
Cllr Clark - to be confirmed.

BOYN HILL
Cllr Carroll - The Brett Foundation, Samaritans and Sequoia Foundation.
Cllr Lion - St Lukes Church in Maidenhead.
Cllr Streton - tree inspection completed that is causing problems for residents and carrying out tree works.

BRAY
Cllr Burbage - to be confirmed.
Both Cllrs Coppinger and Waiters are donating their funds to Holyport Darby and Joan Club and Holyport Youth Club to pay for a trip and a projector and screen.

CASTLE WITHOUT
Cllrs Rankin, Richards and Shelim are donating to Windsor Homeless Project, Windsor Parish Church & All Saints - organ fundraising and to Windsor Festival.

CLEWER EAST
Cllr Bowden - Sebastian’s Action Trust.
Cllr Quick - £500 for Windsor Festival. The rest to be confirmed.

CLEWER NORTH
Cllr Bhatti - Windsor Muslim Centre, Household Cavalry and All Saints Church. Rest still to be allocated.
Cllr Pryer - carried budget over to 2017/18.
Cllr Collins - £250 Swan Lifeline.
Cllr Da Costa - elected May 2017 to replace Cllr Collins. He will allocate the remaining £500.

CLEWER SOUTH
Cllr M Airey - the Christmas Tree in Dedworth.

COX GREEN
Cllr Brimacombe - Cox Green Community Centre, Cox Green Library for the ‘Teenage Reading Groups’ initiative and to add titles to the adult ‘Reading Group’ list.
Cllr Bullock - to be confirmed.
Cllr McWilliams - Maidenhead Magpies to establish a new under 7s football team.

DATCHET
Both Cllrs Grey and Muir donated £1,500 each to go on Christmas Lights in Datchet. This was this years and last year’s budgets.

ETON AND CASTLE
Cllr Alexander - to go on The Eton Walkway project, connected to the Queen’s walkway in Windsor.

ETON WICK
Cllr S Rayner - Eton Wick Village Association.

FURZE PLATT
Cllrs Sharma, Sharp and Iayas have paid for three community notice boards in the ward.
Cllr Iayas is also using £250 for Windsor & Maidenhead Youth & Community Counselling Service.

HORSE AND WRAYSBURY
Cllr C Rayner - Wraysbury Christmas Fayre.
Cllr Lenton - Wraysbury Parish Council.

HURLEY AND WALTHAMS
Cllrs Cox and D Evans - Hurley Parish Council towards the play area at Knowl Hill.
Cllr Hunt - St Peters Church, Knowl Hill to go towards internal refurbishment.

MAIDENHEAD RIVERSIDE
Cllr Dudley - Phoenix Play Gym, £1,500 (using last year’s money too).
Cllrs Dimet and Smith - Deerswood Project, Ray Mill Road East Conservation Group.

OLDFIELD
Cllr Hill - 4 Marlow Road Youth & Community Centre £250, hanging baskets in Maidenhead £250 and Desborough Park Community Centre £250.
Cllrs Majeed and D Wilson are hoping to fund benches on Braywick Road and installation of a bench and notice board at Desborough Park.

PARK
Cllrs Airey and Bicknell are pooling their budget for both 2015/16 and 2016/17 to donate to Windsor Air Training Squadron, Windsor & Eton Sea Cadets, Windsor Army Cadets, Windsor Street Angels, Community First Responders, Youth Talk, self esteem youth group at Windsor Youth Centre, Spencer Denny Centre and Trevelyan Welfare funds.
Cllr Airey is also donating £275 to Windsor Street Angels and Cllr Bicknell is donating £250 to Windsor homeless project sleep out event.

PINKNEYS GREEN
Cllr Werner - Pinkneys Green Cricket Club, Foodshare and Pinkneys Green Youth Centre.
Cllr Hollingsworth - The Dash Charity.
Cllr Gilmore - Newlands Girls School to support a new mathematics Club.

SUNNINGDALE
Cllr Bateson - Sunningdale Parish Council for two new picnic benches.
Cllr Luxton - Household Cavalry Foundation.

SUNNINGHILL AND SOUTH ASCOT
Cllrs Sharpe, Story and Yong are pooling their funds to purchase new signs within their parish.
Investing in our bus services

The future of bus services in the borough has been secured as the council appoints new contracts for a number of important lines.

Key routes including links between Maidenhead, Windsor, Bray and Wraysbury will all continue as the council secures new contracts.

It comes as the Royal Borough can announce Courtney Buses and Bear Buses were appointed following a tendering exercise.

Earlier in the year the council also increased its annual investment into bus services to £840,000 to help keep residents on the move.

Cllr Hari Sharma, bus champion for the Royal Borough, said: "I am delighted that we can announce these new contracts with Courtney Buses and Bear Buses which will ensure our residents can benefit from a reliable public transport network."

"We know how important some of these lifeline services are to people and that is why we are increasing our investment and making sure we work closely with operators to make sure that a good bus service can remain at the heart our local infrastructure."

In April cabinet agreed to increase investments in order to retain provision through to July 2022.

The tendering process included routes 4/4A, 5/5A, 8, 16/16A, 238/239 and the 305. The new operations will begin in August.

Making safer routes for pedestrians

Children and parents are benefiting from a safer route to school as the Royal Borough undertakes a series of improvements to Oldfield Road.

Last Autumn a new path and changes to the surroundings meant pedestrians no longer have to cross the road back and forth on their way in or out from central Maidenhead as they pass under the railway lines.

Cllr Phil Bicknell, cabinet member for highways and transport, said at the time: "As we look to regenerate Maidenhead and the borough’s population continues to increase we need to make sure that all road users remain safe.

"Key routes such as the Stafferton Way link make travel easier for drivers, but we must also ensure our pedestrians and cyclists can travel safely and easily too.

There are also plans to create a new pedestrian and cycle path and bridge in the area.

The footpath will start at Bray Road and will run alongside the school on the Chalgrove Close side to The Cut where a new bridge will connect the other side to an existing path in Braywick Park.

The access formed part of the planning permission for Oldfield Primary School, but it will also provide a convenient route to Braywick Park for neighbouring residents.

This next phase of the scheme is expected to be completed by December this year.
Keeping our residents safe

Royal Borough trading standards officers, along with Thames Valley Police and community wardens, took part in a special day of action to mark this year’s Rogue Trader Week.

The aim was to speak to residents and traders to warn them of doorstep scams, traders who simply turn up at the door and offer to do work as well as the importance of ensuring that any work being carried out is undertaken by reputable traders.

During the week 200 leaflets were distributed by PCSOs to identify high-risk areas, for example homes likely to be occupied by vulnerable people, homes likely to be approached by rogue traders, and homes where some form of maintenance work appeared to be ongoing.

Community wardens ran awareness stands in Maidenhead town centre and library, talking to residents and handing out the leaflets and other packs containing general advice about scams.

On the day of action in the Royal Borough there were a number of successes including the detection of a rogue roofer who was wanted for fraud offences and failure to appear in court.

At another home where work was being done a trader was surprised to discover that their failure to provide a quote in writing meant that payment would be unenforceable.

On another visit a small shingle driveway was being laid, and the householder stated that the price of the job had already increased from £500 to £1,000. Intervention support to resolve this was offered, before the householder became a victim.

Anyone who is concerned about work being carried out by traders or companies should contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506, or visit their website www.citizensadvice.org.uk. The Citizens Advice Consumer Service will provide the advice that you need, and if they think that trading standards should investigate they will pass on all of the details to the relevant trading standards team.

New park and woods open to visitors

Residents and visitors to Maidenhead can make the most of an 86 acre Thrift Wood extension to Ockwells Park this summer.

The green space includes a series of new walkways through parkland and woods offering routes taking from 30 minutes to an hour, an ideal way to get active this season.

It can be accessed from the existing entrance to Ockwells Park off Ockwells Road or through three new entrances located along the bridleway between Holyport and Cox Green. The car park opposite the pavilion has also been expanded.

Cllr Samantha Rayner, cabinet member for culture and communities, said: “We recognise the importance of having beautiful parks and countryside to enjoy in improving the health and wellbeing of everyone.

Ockwells Park and Thrift Wood offers a unique opportunity to enjoy a park rich in nature.”

The site has been completely cleared of equipment from the previous owner and a bridge over The Cut has been repaired and made accessible. Leaflets offering further details of the new walking routes are available from the onsite café.

Youngster enjoying Thrift Wood and the gorgeous bluebells. Picture courtesy of Judith Humphries @MaidenheadMum.

How much could you save on your energy bills?

You could save hundreds of pounds by switching energy providers.

The RBWM Switch to Save scheme is a collective energy supplier switching scheme which helps you save money on your energy bills by getting energy suppliers to bid for residents’ collective business.

Switchers saved an average £280 in our first auction last October.

Cllr Yong, who took part in the first auction, said: “I was genuinely surprised at how much of a saving I made.”

Find out more information or to register visit www3.rbwm.gov.uk/energyswitchtosave from Monday 21 August. Online registrations must be made by Monday 9 October.

If you are physically unable to reach a computer or do not feel confident using the internet, call 01628 683800 to receive assistance with registration by Wednesday 4 October.
Meet your ward

FURZE PLATT

Cllr Derek Sharp

How long have you lived in the borough?
I have lived in the borough since 1992 some 25 years now.

How long have you been a councillor?
I became a councillor in 2011.

What made you want to become a councillor?
I was a special constabulary police officer in the borough for 14 years serving both at Windsor and Maidenhead. After leaving the police I decided to utilise my talents and to put them to good use in the borough having a good knowledge of the area and the people and their wants and aspirations.

What have been the highlights of your role so far?
The highlights of my time as a councillor are providing a new leisure centre at Furze Platt School for residents and pupils. Providing two new play areas in Moffy Hill and Shiford Crescent and watching the kids enjoy themselves in a safe environment.

Are there any parts of the role you don’t enjoy?
There are parts of the role that are not enjoyable such as not reaching some of the goals you set yourself and sometimes you cannot help no matter how much you want to being restricted through funding in some areas and support in other areas. However, you keep trying because that’s the job.

Do you have another job?
Yes I do have another job, or jobs. Until recently I was a CAA Aviation validator visiting various countries assessing their security at various airports. Also I assist in the running of a courier company serving Heathrow Airport.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time (what’s that? I never have any). There are many things I would like to do but never any time to do them.

What is your main aspiration for the Royal Borough and its residents?
My main aspiration for the Royal Borough and its residents is to actively promote a thriving economy within the borough, in particular Maidenhead. But not to the exclusion of providing an environment that the residents want.

What is your favourite place in the borough?
I am lucky enough to have in my ward the open fields opposite the Cranbrook Drive estate and to walk through the fields on a sunny day is my little piece of heaven.

Cllr Mohammed Ilyas

How long have you lived in the borough?
I have lived in Maidenhead since I was very young. My primary and secondary education was completed in Maidenhead.

How long have you been a councillor?
I was first elected as councillor for Furze Platt in 2011. I am now in my sixth year as a Royal Borough councillor.

What made you want to become a councillor?
I wanted to become a councillor in order to be a voice for residents, and to provide an attentive ear to their concerns locally. Influences in my life have included friend of the family Baroness Shreela Flather who was an inspiration in my youth. She was the first Asian female mayor of the Royal Borough.

What have been the highlights of your role so far?
It is always a pleasure to listen to and support residents with their issues. Highlights of my role so far have been becoming chair for the adult services and health overview and scrutiny panel over the last two years, securing funding for children’s play areas in the ward and the leisure centre for use by the Furze Platt Secondary School and the local community.

Are there any parts of the role you don’t enjoy?
No.

Do you have another job?
Apart from my role as councillor, I work in a secondary school teaching science.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time, I like to go for walks, spend time cooking, looking after the garden as well as watching football and cricket when the opportunity arises.

What is your main aspiration for the Royal Borough and its residents?
For it to become a place which provides facilities that cater for the diverse needs of its residents. A place where everyone is able to participate, where diversity is celebrated, and where the views of all are heard and respected.

What is your favourite place in the borough?
My favourite place in the borough is Ray Mill Island, Boulters Lock, Maidenhead Riverside, of which I have many fond memories visiting on many a summer’s day with my family when I was very young.

Councillor contact details are at www.rbwm.gov.uk

Cllr Hari Sharma

How long have you lived in the borough?
I moved to Maidenhead in 2007.

How long have you been a councillor?
I have been a councillor since 2011.

What made you want to become a councillor?
I had been in politics from my university time in India. Politics is my passion and I believe you can make a difference in society or your community by using your knowledge and skills.

What have been the highlights of your role so far?
With the help of my fellow ward councillors and support from my ward residents I kept Furze Platt Secondary School in my ward where there was proposal to relocate it to Spencer Farm. I fully supported and initiated the idea of having Furze Platt Leisure Centre in my ward, which is already very popular.

Are there any parts of the role you don’t enjoy?
I love every aspect of being a councillor.

Do you have another job?
I am a bus driver.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy spending time with my family and love watching cricket and football. I also love the theatre.

What is your main aspiration for the Royal Borough and its residents?
I want to improve the transport system, especially bus services for our residents. I also want to protect unique features of the borough and to improve the quality of life of residents.

What is your favourite place in the borough?
It is difficult to choose one; Windsor Castle, Ascot racecourse and Bisham Abbey national sport centre are my favourite places.
councillors

CLEWER EAST

Cllr John Bowden

How long have you lived in the borough?
I have lived here for 21 years, and prior to that I spent 24 years nearby in Staines.

How long have you been a councillor?
I was elected in 2015.

What made you want to become a councillor?
I have always been interested and had a working knowledge of central and local government.

What have been the highlights of your role so far?
To be asked to take on the role of chair of the Aviation Forum and establish close contact with Heathrow to express the views of residents on noise and development.

Are there any parts of the role you don’t enjoy?
I have always served the public so I am able to handle complaints, so none faze or deter me.

Do you have another job?
I am now fully retired.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I am a member of Datchet Players and we have two productions a year, some including myself, and we raise money for charities.

What is your main aspiration for the Royal Borough and its residents?
To ensure all residents are represented, safe, and to present Windsor as a world destination.

What is your favourite place in the borough?
Naturally, Windsor town is my favourite.

Cllr Eileen Quick

How long have you lived in the borough?
I am proud of the fact that I was born in Windsor and have lived in the borough all of my life.

How long have you been a councillor?
I was first elected to the council in 2000.

What made you want to become a councillor?
My father and grandfather were local councillors and great role models for me, they inspired me to follow in their footsteps.

What have been the highlights of your role so far?
The highlight for me was serving as Mayor of the Royal Borough during the Magna Carta 800 celebrations at the beginning of the year and Her Majesty’s 90th birthday celebrations in Windsor at the end of the year. As the lead member for children’s services I was delighted to help deliver the new Manor Green School on time and in budget.

Are there any parts of the role you don’t enjoy?
Being a councillor involves working with residents and I can honestly say that I enjoy the variety that comes with the role, but you can’t please all of the people all of the time so I must be realistic.

Do you have another job?
I was a teacher and lecturer of home economics for nearly 40 years but now have more time to devote to council work without my family missing out.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy reading, cooking and visiting heritage sights both at home and abroad. Every week my husband and I have the lovely task of looking after our 18 month old grandson for one day.

What is your main aspiration for the Royal Borough and its residents?
To aspire to being the very best place in the country for people to live and work. Of course we have a head start with the beautiful countryside and world famous destinations.

What is your favourite place in the borough?
My favourite place is The Long Walk with the fantastic view of Windsor Castle, but it has got plenty of stiff competition.
General Election 2017

Students invited to watch democracy in action

It was a massive honour and privilege to be able to represent Churchmead School at the 2017 General Election.

We were able to attend the counting of the votes for The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead at the Magnet Leisure Centre in Maidenhead.

We arrived at 10.30pm on Thursday 8 June and stayed until 4am; needless to say we spent the following day walking around school like zombies! By the time we had arrived, verification was already under way and the auditorium was filled with supporters of different parties, officials and spectators like us.

This experience has made the pair of us realise there is so much hard work and dedication put into the organisation of a General Election behind the scenes. Legions of people have to verify the votes before they begin counting and this is long and monotonous work. The first team to finish verification was team four and they finished at 11.50pm. The other teams finished after and all verification had taken place by 1am the mini counts were well under way.

Shortly before verification ended, a few of the candidates arrived, including Lord Buckethead and the leader of The Monster Raving Loony Party, Howling Laud Hope. We also had the honour of meeting several celebrities including Kay Burley; we were told Andrew Marr was also in attendance.

At 2.35am, just as the count was drawing to a close, we were informed that Theresa May was en route. Cue quickly moving camera crews and excited spectators lining the barriers, desperate to catch a look at the Prime Minister. We ended up all standing at the barriers for well over half an hour, most of which Mrs May was on the premises but upstairs in the viewing area.

Once Mrs May had arrived (rather rapidly we may add), the candidates gathered by the small stage, ready to discover the results.

As you most likely know, the Conservative Party won overwhelmingly with nearly 38,000 votes in the Maidenhead seat. Labour came second with over 11,000 votes.

Theresa May made a speech thanking those who had supported and was then swiftly removed from the premises – we discovered she arrived in London just under an hour later.

Over all, this experience was absolutely amazing and we will never forget it.

We met so many amazing (and maybe slightly insane) people who were all fighting for what they believe in. We met a woman whose husband had been kidnapped in 2014 and was trying to bring notice to the fact that the United Kingdom had never requested his release. We met Lord Buckethead who provided hilarious comic relief to release the tension of the night.

In closing, we need to thank Mrs John-Lewis as well as the rest of the staff who made it possible for us to attend this amazing event.

We had such a phenomenal time at the count and we learnt so much. We now have a greater appreciation for the work and effort that is involved in running just one constituency.

We hope that in the future, we may be able to attend these events and be able to count the votes in future elections.

Caitlin Holden and Chloe Buckeridge, Year 9

History in our borough

Our borough has always enjoyed a rich local history, however, many residents are yet to discover the lively details of our borough’s past.

Maidenhead Heritage Centre is nestled between our busy town centre and active Town Hall.

Richard Poad, Chairman of the Maidenhead Heritage Centre, says the centre is “endlessly fascinating” and he “loves sharing it with local people”.

It offers services for the entire community. Young people can benefit from the educational opportunities, which include a touch screen TV that presents information in an interactive and accessible way, a reference library brimming with different books that would be of real use in any school history projects and invaluable homework help is offered for free!

Exhibitions such as a 2000 year old real-life-skelaeton called Julius also make for very engaging visits for children interested in history and learning.

Visits may also be for leisure. The centre’s Spitfire Simulator is an exciting experience for all ages. It is notable that the software used on the simulator is the same that major flying training schools would use so could be used by aspiring pilots who wish to practice flying easily, inexpensively and locally.

Adults, especially those who have grown up in the borough, would also appreciate the wealth of material available. More modern exhibits may even provide a chance for some to reminisce the Maidenhead they may remember as a child.

The Maidenhead Heritage Centre is an exciting and essential service provided to our community, so why not enjoy it more often!

Thanks to Luisa Marinozzi who wrote this piece for us. Luisa is a 17-year-old Maidenhead resident.”

Luisa Marinozzi outside Maidenhead Town Hall.

See www.wamster.org.uk for more
Ascot and the Sunnings

Rotary Club of Ascot
A well established local charity that raises funds for various local good causes. We meet on Wednesdays, first and third Wednesdays of each month, for lunch and second and fourth Wednesdays for dinner at Mill Ride Golf Club. See: www.rotaryascot.org or call 01344 624 161 for more information.

Thames Hospice
Volunteers are vital to the success of Thames Hospice and, without them, we would not be able to support as many people as we do. We would love you to join our volunteer team and have a range of opportunities available; from driving patients to helping in our shops. Visit our website or call us for more details: www.thameshospice.org.uk/volunteer / 01753 848940.

Windsor area

Windsor & Eton Bowls Club
Windsor & Eton Bowls Club FREE COACHING SESSION come down Monday or Wednesday evenings from 5.30pm for a free coaching session – no experience required at all. Goswell Meadow, Barry Avenue – entrance via the car park behind Browns restaurant. Go through the car park barrier, then turn immediately right into our club. For more information see: www.windsorandetonbowlingclub.co.uk

Royal Windsor Summer Show – July 15
Take the whole family to the beautiful setting of Windsor Castle, St. George's School (SL4 1QF) for a day full of fun; enjoy live Jazz, Punch and Judy, Morris dancing, birds of prey, cooking demonstrations from celebrity chefs, gardening advice and an array of local artisan stalls, offering delicious food and drink. Search windsorsummershow on Facebook or call 01753 449449.

Maidenhead area

RSPB East Berks Local Group
Join us for a new season of bird watching walks and wildlife talks starting in September. Monthly talks are held on the third Thursday of the month at Methodist Church Hall, King St, Maidenhead, £4 for non-members. There are regular bird watching walks in the local area and further afield, open to everyone with beginners especially welcome. Full programme of walks and talks at: www.eastberksrspb.org.uk

Maidenhead National Trust Association
You do not have to be a member of National Trust to join our voluntary fund raising organisation and meet like-minded people from the area. We meet in the Jakoby Drama Studio at Desborough College for a talk by a visiting speaker on the second Thursday of each month at 7.45pm. We also have several outings each year and a couple of holidays. More information can be found at: maidenheadnta.org.uk

Publicise your events for free!
Charities, community groups, schools and other not-for-profit organisations are welcome to supply 60 words, a brief heading and a small image or logo free of charge to promote your good work.
There is also the option to supply an A7 (74mm wide by 106mm high) ready-to-use pdf for a cost of £50.
If you would like to submit an entry or for further information or advice email community.classifieds@rbwm.gov.uk

Advantage Card—For discounts throughout the borough

Don't miss out on fantastic discounts from local shops, days out and restaurants. Get a card at your local leisure centre for over 200 local discounts including free entry to Windsor Castle and discounted parking in the borough.

New offers each month with competitions
Recent competitions offered afternoon tea at the Bird in Hand, champagne from Laithwaites, tickets to the Windsor Festival, a home-delivered meal from Absolute Cuisine, tickets to the Rose Show and Windsor Christmas Gift Fair...

Get offers emailed to you every month—sign up now at www.rbwm.gov.uk
Discounted tickets for events like the Windsor Horse Show and Windsor Racecourse, 50% off Legoland tickets, discounts for half-term activities, on days out, shopping, dining, home services, sports events and courses and much more...

Over 200 discounts available to download
Offers include discounts in council car parks, for on-street parking and some free evening parking, 10% off at The Crown at Bray, 10% off at Fenwick Windsor, 25% off at Browns Brasserie and The Real Greek, French Brothers, Norden Farm and much more...

The Yellow Advantage Card is free to borough residents. Apply in person with proof of address and renew your subscription every two years.

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