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News from the Royal Borough of Maidenhead and Windsor for residents. If you'd like to receive your own copy of this e-newsletter, [sign up here](#).

## Residents' Newsletter



### Budget proposals for next year

The proposed budget for 2019/20 has been published and sets out investment for services that matter to our residents as well as ensuring front line services are protected.

The proposals include significant investments of over £25 million pounds in parks and infrastructure including roads and community facilities.

The proposals include investment in Christmas lights, Ockwells Park and Battlemead Common as well as maintaining our bridges including Elizabeth Bridge and Cookham Bridge.

The budget proposes a 2.99% increase in the council's element of Council Tax which keeps it the lowest outside of London while ensuring key services like weekly bin collections remain.

The council budget will be discussed at all scrutiny panels with the first one being children's services overview and scrutiny panel on Tuesday 29 January at the Town Hall, Maidenhead. The budget will then be debated by Full Council on Tuesday 26 February in the Town Hall, Maidenhead.

See the [budget proposal press release here](#)

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### New car parking machines installed across the borough

Over 100 new car parking machines are being installed across the borough to make it quicker and easier for residents and visitors to pay for parking.

The new 116 machines will allow residents to use their advantage card to secure reduced parking rates across 27



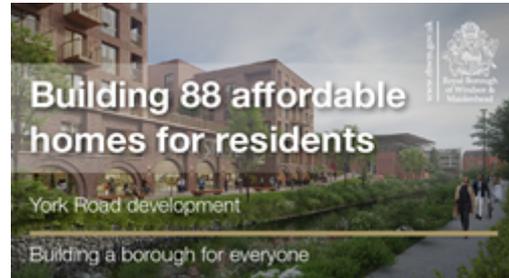
council owned car parks as well as including the option to pay by debit or credit card.

[See more here](#)

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## Register your interest for a home in York Road development

You can now register your interest for a new home in the York Road development which the council, Countryside and Housing Solutions are working together to deliver.



Housing Solutions will deliver affordable housing including social housing at the site which will see 229 new homes alongside a community space and food and café outlets on the banks of Maidenhead waterways.

The site, which is being delivered in partnership with Countryside, sees a total of 88 new affordable homes (38%) which Housing Solutions will own and manage. They will be a mix of shared ownership, affordable rent (rent set at local housing allowance levels) and social rent.

Building work is expected to start on the site in spring 2019 with the first homes expected to be completed by autumn 2020.

You can sign up now to secure one of the new homes being built on the York Road site by calling 01628 876134.

[Click here to register your interest.](#)

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## Council buys land to protect open space

We've purchased 110 acres of land between Maidenhead and Cookham to safeguard the open green space and improve access for residents and visitors.

Battlemead Common, off Lower Cookham Road, will allow the council to reopen a missing link in the Millennium Walk route and ensure future generations and wildlife can continue to enjoy the area as an unspoilt outdoor space, with breath-taking views of Cliveden House and the surrounding countryside.

Within the land are fields which had previously been used for farming, Willow Woods and White Brook. Much of the land is prone to flooding and acts as an ideal habitat for wintering wildfowl and waders.

The Millennium Walk project created a seven mile trail off the Thames Path linking Boulton's Lock to Hurley on a cross-country route through some of the green spaces that surround Maidenhead.

See [full details here](#).

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## Trees planted to offset leisure centre build carbon footprint

100 trees have been planted to create a new woodland area in Braywick Park. The sapling trees, including Silver Birch, Grey Willow, Whitebeam, Hazel and Hawthorn, have been planted behind the new Braywick Leisure Centre, which is currently under construction, and will offset the carbon emissions generated by the build.



As well as the sapling trees, the building work on the new Braywick Leisure Centre has taken a step forward with the foundation floor for the pool now in place. The new centre will have a 10-lane swimming pool, larger training and splash pools, a larger sports hall, a 200-station gym and four squash courts. The scheme which will improve disability access and double the numbers for car parking, will also use 70% less energy than the existing Magnet Leisure Centre.

See [more details here](#).

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## Funding for Maidenhead Waterways

We are investing in the construction of the Maidenhead Waterways weir at Green Lane which will raise water levels throughout the town centre and fill the already enlarged York Stream channels.



The approved weir design incorporates a fish and eel pass plus boat rollers, allowing small motorised and unpowered boats to pass along the reopened channels in the town centre.

Shanly Group is building the final section of the enlarged York Stream just above Chapel Arches, as part of its current phase three development, which will link with the enlarged up and downstream sections already built by the Royal Borough.

It's hoped that the weir, which will cost £1.3 million will be operational before the end of 2019.

See [full details here](#).

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## Report it online

If you need to apply for a season ticket, pay for a blue badge or report something, why not do it online?

Here are some of the things you can do online:

- apply for an Advantage Card renewal, parking permits, bus pass renewal, housing, planning alerts and van permits for recycling at Stafferton Way.
- payment for business rates, council invoices, council tax, green waste collection, parking fines or parking season tickets
- report bins not emptied, flytipping, graffiti, potholes, streetlights and traffic lights



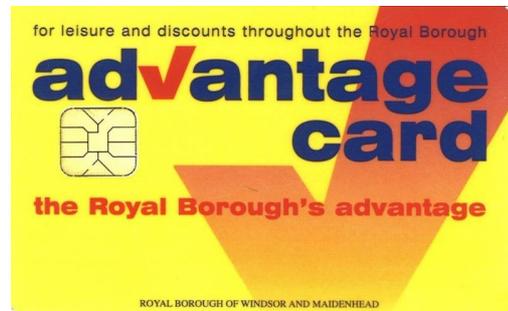
[Click here for reporting online](#)

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## Advantage Card offers

As a resident, your Yellow Advantage Card gives you free entry to Windsor Castle, discounted parking and over 250 offers on days out and shopping. Every month we send out special offers by email.

[Sign up here](#)



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## Keeping in touch

Keep up to date with news and information from across the borough by following us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Our recent [press releases](#) are also on the website.

Other accounts you may be interested in:

- Royal Windsor Information Centre [tourism web page](#).
- Enjoy Maidenhead [web page](#) and [Facebook](#).
- Libraries on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Children's centres on [Facebook](#).
- Borough Leisure Centre [web pages](#).

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