Your Place Magazine

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Welcome

Content published 20 November 2026

Welcome to *Your Place* from the council's Leader Cllr Paul Harvey and Co-Leader Cllr Gavin James (pictured).



We are proud to lead a borough council that delivers high-quality services and value for money. Our focus has always been on doing what is needed to keep the borough a great place to live and work and supporting our residents and communities.

This edition showcases just some of the things we have done to deliver on these priorities.

We are bringing millions in investment and new facilities to our borough. Our landmark project to build a £60 million leisure and water complex at Basingstoke Leisure Park is at planning application stage.

We've also helped Basingstoke Town Community Football Club kick off an exciting new chapter in their long-term home; this follows having also kept ice in Basingstoke.

We're playing our part in the ground-breaking partnership work to change the lives of people sleeping rough by improving emergency accommodation at May Place House with a total refurbishment.

And we're doing all this while keeping your borough council debt free and proposing a balanced budget to ensure the stability of the services you rely on.

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Your services

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Balancing the budget

We want your views on how we fund our services and projects as part of our budget proposals for next year.

Proposals include continued investment in frontline services, projects to improve the borough and support for communities.

Our property portfolio brings in nearly twice as much as council tax. This means our part of your council tax is lower than most district councils.

But we are having to pay more to provide services, with costs rising. That's why we are proposing an increase of only £5 a year in our share of an average band D household's council tax bill, equivalent to around 10p a week, as well as an average three per cent increase in fees, such as parking.

Have your say before Sunday 3 January (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/budget2027)

From blueprint to backstroke

A new water and leisure complex at Basingstoke Leisure Park is moving closer to the starting blocks.



Pictured: An impression of what a new pool and flumes could look like.

Our partner Places Leisure has submitted a planning application for the new centre it will build and run, replacing our popular Aquadrome with a modern energy-efficient facility.

Residents got a first glimpse of what's on the horizon at information sessions in September, with computer-generated images of the building (see above) and its facilities, including flumes, a 25-metre eight-lane competition pool and a 150-station gym.

Work is set to start next year, if the application is approved. The new centre will be built elsewhere in the leisure park so the Aquadrome can stay open until the replacement is ready – expected to be in 2029 – meaning no disruption to swimming and leisure in the meantime.

Places Leisure will take over running the Aquadrome, as well as Tadley Health and Fitness Centre and Basingstoke Golf Centre, from Serco on Friday 1 January 2027. We're working closely with both providers to ensure a smooth and seamless transition for customers and staff.

Find out more about our Leisure Park proposal (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/LeisureParkProposal)

"Our plans for a fantastic new water and leisure complex would fulfil a promise made to residents to replace the much-loved but ageing Aquadrome with a state-of-the-art facility fit for current residents and future generations."

Cabinet Member for Major Projects and Business Engagement Cllr Onnalee Cubitt

Boosting Basingstoke's town centre

We're continuing to breathe new life into Basingstoke town centre, building on ideas local people told us matter most, from great events to simple improvements that make visiting easier.



Basingstoke Festival, half-term activities, live music and other events we've supported this year have brought in tens of thousands of visitors, creating a lively atmosphere and supporting local businesses.

If you've visited the town centre recently, you may have noticed improvements at The Malls shopping centre, as parts of the car park are resurfaced, parking bays are widened and safer pedestrian routes are created.

Looking ahead, we're exploring a major deal that could bring millions of pounds of new investment into the town centre and Basing View, helping create an even better place to live, work and spend time.

Read our town centre action plan (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/TownCentreFuture)

Worried about money

Support is available for people struggling to pay their bills or afford food or other everyday costs.



You can **find local advice and practical help** (http://www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/basingstoke-and-deane), all in one place.

The website will point you towards organisations who can connect you with support, including food banks, community pantries and debt advice. You can also search **Basingstoke**

Voluntary Action's community directory (http://www.bvaction.org.uk/directory) to find support in your local area.

These are examples of the help available locally and we're working on an anti-poverty action plan to bring organisations together to better support people through financial challenges.

> *"With rising living costs, people are struggling more than ever. We are working with charities and organisations to make sure help is available for everyone from the most vulnerable to those now worrying about making ends meet."*
>
> **Cabinet Member for Residents' Services and Housing Cllr Laura James**

Fraud protection

To help protect public money from fraud and ensure it is used to deliver vital services, we support the national fraud initiative, run by the Public Sector Fraud Authority.

As part of this, we share the personal information you give us to deliver your services with the Department for Work and Pensions for data matching.

Find out more about fraud on our website (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/fraud)

Winter shelter reopens its doors

As temperatures fall, the Night Light Winter Shelter is offering a warm bed, food and a listening ear for people sleeping rough during the coldest months of the year.



The shelter is run by churches in the Basingstoke and Deane Social Inclusion Partnership, which brings organisations including the council, charities, faith groups and volunteers together to tackle homelessness and support individuals to find suitable accommodation.

And, as the shelter welcomes guests over the coming months, we will continue with our ongoing refurbishment of May Place House in Basingstoke so the emergency accommodation remains a year-round, vital lifeline for people who need it most. It is set to reopen in the spring.

Could you help? Donate time, food, toiletries and essentials (http://www.realchangebasingstoke.org.uk/)

Alert the partnership to someone sleeping rough (http://www.thestreetlink.org.uk/)

Top parks awarded green flag

Beggarwood Park, Eastrop Park and War Memorial Park have retained their Green Flag Awards, recognising them as some of the UK's best green spaces.

The awards reflect the hard work of our teams who keep them looking their best all year round. Recent improvements across the parks include new pedalos and fountains in the boating lake, new

play equipment and benches, refurbished facilities and nature trails, helping everyone to enjoy these much-loved green spaces.



New repair team gets to work

Our new maintenance team has been busy helping to keep public spaces safe, clean and welcoming for residents and visitors.



Carrying out planned and reactive maintenance across the borough, the two-person team has been repairing and replacing bins, benches, signs, fencing and bollards, as well as repainting and making improvements to some play areas.

Working alongside our other grounds maintenance and street cleaning teams, they are helping to improve the appearance of community spaces, supporting our commitment to provide high-quality public places for everyone to enjoy.

Play area makeovers

Work will begin early next year to transform three of our outdated play areas in the borough into fun and inclusive spaces for children. Play areas at Constantine Way in Hatch Warren, Meadowland in Chineham and Eastrop Community Centre are each getting a brand-new look and new equipment through our programme of improvements.



Pictured: *Two Gate Meadow play area in Overton was completed this year.*

Local residents will also be asked for their views on plans to relocate the play area at Warblington Close in Tadley and create a new larger play space nearby.

The four sites were identified as those most in need of improvement out of the 153 play areas we look after.

Tackling dog fouling

Our borough-wide order to help tackle dog fouling has been extended for another three years, until November 2029.



The public spaces protection order makes it an offence for anyone in charge of a dog not to clean up after it in a public place. Dog owners and walkers must also carry bags or another means of clearing up after their dog.

Anyone who fails to comply could face a £100 fine or prosecution.

Report dog fouling (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-dog-fouling)

Are you prepared for an emergency?



We check our smoke alarms and buy home insurance hoping we'll never need them. But are you prepared for a sudden emergency, such as a flash flood or a long power cut?

As part of a national campaign, we're encouraging everyone to take a few simple steps to help them cope for at least three days if a major disruption happens including:

- Making a 15-minute plan: write down emergency numbers, find out where your main water stopcock is and agree where to meet if your family gets separated.
- Building a 72-hour kit: pack a few essentials such as bottled water, ready-to-eat tinned food and a tin opener, a wind-up torch and a charged power bank.

Find out more information and advice on what do in an emergency (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/emergency)

Signs for safer speeds

We've funded new speed awareness signs to encourage motorists to slow down. The signs remind drivers who are speeding to reduce their speed, while those travelling below the speed limit are rewarded with a smiley face or thank you.



While we're not the highway authority responsible for roads, we're supporting efforts to reduce speeds in areas of the borough with high levels of vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

The signs will be moved between identified locations every two weeks to help encourage safer driving across the borough.

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Your environment

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Rural rubbish action

Fly-tipping is blighting our borough's beautiful countryside and we're working hard to tackle it.

Around 130 rural fly-tips were cleared by our fly-tipping team in a year, with dumped items ranging from toys and furniture to building materials and food.

The loads can be so large they block country lanes, while also harming the environment.

The team works quickly to clear the fly-tipping and keep roads safe, although larger incidents and hazardous materials such as asbestos may require specialist contractors.

They also search for evidence to help our enforcement officers identify those responsible. Reports and information from residents play an important part in helping us to tackle fly-tipping and take action against offenders.



Report fly-tipping (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytipping)

Know who's taking your waste

Giving your rubbish to the wrong person to dispose of could get you a criminal record.

Over the past year, we've prosecuted five residents after waste they had paid someone to remove was later fly-tipped.

Always check that anyone taking away your waste is a licensed waste carrier, ask for a written quote and find out where your rubbish will be taken. Be particularly wary of doorstep offers and social media adverts.

Find more information and advice on rogue waste carriers (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytip-campaign)

More electric vehicle chargers

We're continuing to create more charging points in car parks and other public places to make it easier to recharge your electric vehicle.



A recent installation at The Winkle in Winklebury will soon be followed by new chargers on St Andrews Road in South Ham, at Down Grange Sports Complex in Kempshott and at Tadley Health and Fitness Centre.

We're looking for suggestions for where chargers could be installed next.

Requests for on-street chargers will be passed to Hampshire County Council, which is responsible for them.

Have your say on electric vehicle chargers (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/ev-feedback)

Sunshine into savings

A few solar panels on your roof could cut your electricity bills by around £600 a year.



With energy costs rising again, our Sustainable Basingstoke initiative has launched a new solar panel guide covering everything you need to know, from likely costs and potential savings to finding a reputable installer. It also covers how to earn money by exporting unused electricity to the grid.

As winter settles in, solar panels may not be at the top of your to-do list. But now is a good time to start planning so you're ready to make the most of the sunnier days when they return.

[Take a look at the solar panel guide (https://sustainable-basingstoke.co.uk/solar-panel-guide/)](https://sustainable-basingstoke.co.uk/solar-panel-guide/)

Community centres' solar savings pass £16,000

We've recently fitted new solar panels to 12 more community buildings, including Bishops Green Village Hall, The Link in Tadley and the Irish Centre and Fairfields Hall in Basingstoke town centre.

In just the first few months, they've already cut local emissions by over 23 tonnes of carbon and saved the community centres a combined total of over £16,000 on their energy bills, which is money they can now use to help pay for activities, events and services for residents.

[Find out more about community centres improvements (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/community-centres-improvements)](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/community-centres-improvements)

"Going green and saving money really can go hand in hand. Solar panels cut carbon and energy bills. They are already doing this for residents and our community centres, freeing up money they can spend on other things."

Cabinet Member for Climate and Ecological Emergency Cllr Chris Tomblin

New conservation group takes root

These volunteers (pictured) are part of the Daneshill Park Woodlands Conservation Group, the newest addition to a network of around 20 nature groups who work with us and Natural Basingstoke to help wildlife thrive across the borough.



Together, we care for over 300 hectares of green space through activities including surveying wildlife and improving habitats and orchards.

We also jointly organise special events, including the Beggarwood Park BioBlitz in August. More than 100 local people joined in this year, helping us, Natural Basingstoke and wildlife experts to identify an impressive 185 species, from beetles and spiders to birds and plants. Thank you to everyone who gives their time to help nature.

[Find a group to join near you (http://www.sustainable-basingstoke.co.uk/get-involved)](http://www.sustainable-basingstoke.co.uk/get-involved)

Save on energy bills with Green Team help

You could save money on your energy bills with the help of our Green Team's home energy survey.

Every household in the borough can book a free, one-hour survey. It doesn't matter if you rent or own, or live in a flat or house. Our trained advisors visit you in the comfort of your own home and give tailored advice to help you save money while keeping your home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

Our advisors use thermal imaging to check how well your heating system is working, helping you understand how to make it warmer and more comfortable.



After your survey, you'll get a report with actions you can take, ranging from simple everyday changes to more significant steps like adding insulation. Over 1,150 households have had a survey so far.

Book your free home energy survey (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/home-energy-survey)

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Your community

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Small grants, big impacts

Our Councillor Community Grant Scheme provides funding for local community and voluntary groups delivering projects that benefit residents of all ages. Last year, 82 projects were supported by grants allocated by our 54 councillors. Below are just a few of them.

Find out more about our Councillor Community Grant Scheme (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/cllr-community-grants)

Helping to rebuild lives

The Dwelling Place supports people who have experienced homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless, helping them on their journey towards independent living.



Our funding paid for new mattresses, bed frames, bedside cabinets, chests of drawers and shelving for the charity's supported accommodation.

Housing Manager and Project Lead Charlotte Powell (pictured) said: *"This furniture will help our residents feel valued and worthy of the support they receive as they work to improve their lives."*

Creating pride through public art

Tadley past and present is being celebrated thanks to a creative community project driven by Tadley and District Youth Action Council.

Pictured: *Youth council representatives with artists Two Lost Birds.*

Supported by artist duo Two Lost Birds, residents, school children, local groups and businesses in the town came together to make their mark on the mural and turn a plain wall in the centre of Tadley into

an exciting new piece of art. Funding for the project included money from the Councillor Community Grant Scheme, The Greenham Trust and Loddon Valley Lions.



Funding helps to hit the right note

A £281 grant helped Forever Singing buy new sheet music to support its singing sessions for people living with dementia, Parkinson's disease and other neurological conditions, as well as their families, friends and carers.



Through singing, the charity helps to support wellbeing, reduce isolation and give people the chance to come together and make meaningful social connections.

Centre of attraction

The transformation of Oakridge West Community Centre into a more modern, sustainable and accessible building for the whole community is now complete.



The doors of the new look council-owned community facility have officially reopened following the completion of the £1 million makeover, funded through money that has come from development.

Improvements include a more open and welcoming entrance lobby. The two large halls have been remodelled to ensure they work best for all manner of community activities, and there have been electric and heating system upgrades including solar panels, heat pumps and LED lighting.

Oakridge West Community Association runs the building and is now working to recruit more volunteers and find out what activities should take place at the centre to meet the needs of the community.

Chair Lesley Wilson (pictured centre with other association members) said: "We are delighted with the improvements and are excited to build on these to create a thriving community space with more activities to meet the needs of local people."

Get in touch with the community association (mailto:OWCA.committee@gmail.com)

Community group's new home

Step through the doors of the former Beacon pub in South Ham today and you'll find a welcoming community space bringing people together.

We bought the building to secure a new home for the Westside Community Association, after its previous centre closed when it was found to contain RAAC, a lightweight concrete linked to structural safety concerns.

Now, following a £500,000 refurbishment by housing association SNG, the former pub in Basingstoke has been transformed into The Westside Beacon, a temporary hub for activities, events and support services.



Already open and welcoming residents, the space is providing a base for the association while SNG develops its plans for permanent community facilities as part of its regeneration proposals for the area.

Find out more on SNG's website (http://www.sng.org.uk/)

Discover striking street art near you

There's art waiting to be discovered across Basingstoke and Deane, and our refreshed public art guide makes it easy to find.



Explore more than 100 artworks, from vibrant murals and striking sculptures to historic landmarks and pieces created by local communities, including the kickabout wall in King George V Park in Brookvale.

This mural was created by students at Queen Mary's College in Basingstoke (pictured) thanks to a borough council-commissioned project. Designs by Logan King and Matilda Barton were painted onto the wall earlier this year, after their artwork came out on top in a public vote.

Whether you're a resident or visitor, the guide is a free way to discover something new and learn more about the creativity, culture and heritage all around us.

Find more about the local public art (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/public-art)

Black Dam community centre doubles the fun

Music and movement sessions, line dancing, exercise classes, a play café and bingo nights are just some of the activities attracting new visitors to Rucstall Community Centre in Black Dam.



Pictured: *Visitors enjoying an art class at the centre.*

Nearly 18,000 people have visited the council-owned community centre, which is run by Viables Community Association, over the past year, doubling the numbers from the previous year.

Since taking over at the end of 2024, the team has worked with providers, volunteers and residents to turn the centre into a thriving community hub, expanding the services and activities available.

A brand-new events space called The Den has also been created using council funding.

Find out more about Black Dam community centre (http://www.viables.org.uk/)

Home help

Home adaptations such as wet rooms, stairlifts and ramps are helping disabled adults and children live safely and independently.

Last year, we awarded 172 disabled facilities grants worth £1.9 million, supporting 22 children and 150 adults.

Available to homeowners and tenants, grants help fund adaptations to meet a disabled person's needs.

Hampshire County Council's occupational therapy team assesses residents and refers those eligible to us for support through the grant process.

Find out more about disabled facilities grants (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grant)

Giving community buildings a boost

Last year our Community Infrastructure Fund provided over half a million pounds to local community groups and voluntary organisations looking to improve their facilities or make existing facilities more accessible, user-friendly or financially sustainable. Some examples of the projects funded feature below.

Find out more about the Community Infrastructure Fund (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/InfrastructureFund)

Serving up improvements

The kitchen at Sherfield Park Community Centre has been transformed into a more welcoming and functional space, thanks to a grant of more than £34,600.



The centre is a valued community hub for local residents, but its kitchen was tired, dated and no longer fit for purpose. The funding has enabled refurbishment works, including new appliances, cabinets, doors and flooring, helping to modernise the space and expand the centre's activity programme to include food-based activities as well as continue to support the wide range of activities and events held at the centre for years to come.

Raising the roof at Wolverton Village Hall

The thatched roof at Wolverton Village Hall has been refurbished, thanks in part to a £10,000 grant.

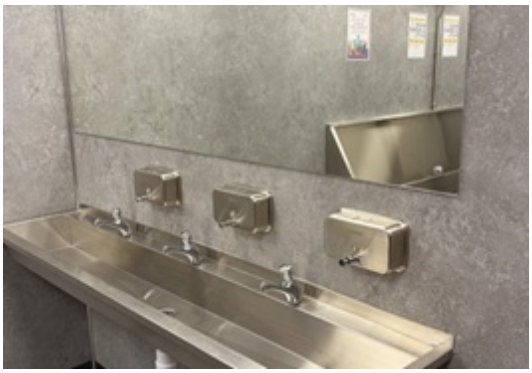
The hall has stood at the heart of the community since 1922 and was originally built by local people using locally sourced materials. So, when the roof needed replacing, it was important to retain the look and feel of the original thatch.

Paid for by the grant alongside other funding, individual donations and fundraising events, the new roof will help the hall continue to serve the local community for years to come, hosting everything from quiz nights and clubs to the monthly market.



Toilets get a refresh

More than £18,500 in funding has helped transform Basingstoke Rugby Football Club's 40-year-old toilet facilities.



New flooring, plumbing, heating and toilets have created a modern, more accessible and welcoming space for around 1,000 members and users.

The refurbishment will also help reduce maintenance costs and open up more opportunities for venue hire, supporting the club's future.

Why I volunteer

Through our Why I volunteer campaign, we put the spotlight on the dedicated individuals in the borough who give up their time to make a positive difference. Through our social media channels, we've been telling real people's stories about how their experiences have changed their lives and helped others. Here's just a few of them.

Guiding young people

Karen from the 6th Basingstoke Scout Group first got involved when her children joined.



She works full time in a school but enjoys spending time on a Friday evening helping young people grow, explore and thrive.

Karen said: *"One of my favourite things is camping. It brings the young people together and is fun."*

Helping nature thrive through conservation volunteering

Having time outside, meeting people, getting a workout and enjoying some cake are just some of the reasons why members of Chineham Conservation Group (pictured) say they volunteer.

The group, which we support together with local charity Natural Basingstoke, runs regular sessions where volunteers undertake activities like removing invasive plants, coppicing and surveying butterflies to help nature thrive in the area.

Anna, leader of the conservation group, said: *"I love volunteering because I enjoy being outside and meeting people who love nature just as much as I do."*

[Find out more about conservation volunteering (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/ConservationGroups)](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/ConservationGroups)



Time for help and advice

John volunteers with Citizens Advice Basingstoke, helping people in person, over the phone and online.



After retiring a few years ago, he wanted to do something enjoyable that would make a difference.

John said: *"The most enjoyable thing is having a sense that the work I'm doing is worthwhile and really helping people."*

If you know of any local heroes who deserve to have their contributions celebrated too, [visit our dedicated webpage. (https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/why-I-volunteer)](https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/why-I-volunteer)

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Your future council

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Government puts council changes on hold



The government is still considering how councils, including ours, will be restructured across Hampshire in the future.

In March, the government announced a decision to replace the 14 existing county, city, borough and district councils in Hampshire with four new unitary councils. For our area, this would have created a North Hampshire Council covering Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor and providing all council services.

The government withdrew that decision in September. At the time of going to press, the government said it remained committed to local government reorganisation in Hampshire but was still reviewing how to restructure the councils from 2029.

Owing to this pause, the elections in May 2027 will be for borough councillors rather than for councillors for the new unitary council.

Devolution of powers to the regional area is going ahead, after the setting up of the Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority. This will be led by a Mayor, elected for a four-year term at an election scheduled for May 2028, at the time of going to press.

Find out the latest updates on LGR and devolution (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/future-councils)

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Your homes

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Keeping Manydown on track

You may have noticed quite a bit of activity if you've passed Manydown recently, as work continues to put the foundations in place for a vibrant new neighbourhood in western Basingstoke.



This includes connecting utilities and finishing a new four-way junction into the community, with pedestrian and cycle crossings for a safe and convenient route through to Basingstoke town centre.

With this early infrastructure work progressing well, master developer Urban&Civic – on behalf of its partnership with us and Hampshire County Council – is negotiating with housebuilders ahead of construction starting on the first homes next year. The first neighbourhood, off Roman Road opposite Winklebury Way, will be well connected to future facilities including a primary school, community hub and the 250-acre countryside park.

Stay up to date on Manydown (http://www.manydownlife.co.uk/)

Local Plan progress

We've started work on a new Local Plan to set out where future homes, jobs and infrastructure will go in the borough.



Work on our existing draft Local Plan had to be halted earlier this year after concerns were identified around the long-term resilience of South East Water's supply network serving large parts of the borough.

The delay prevented us from progressing the draft plan under the previous national planning system that has now been replaced. We're keen to take forward the work already done and move quickly to develop a Local Plan under the new planning system.

Already we've set out our timetable to deliver the plan and held a scoping consultation to hear views on what the new Local Plan should cover, its vision and proposed outcomes, and how communities should be involved.

Alongside this, we invited landowners and developers to put forward land for future development. Further consultation is due to take place in the summer.

Find out more about the Local Plan (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/NewLP)

"Decisions on building new homes must be supported by investment in local infrastructure. Getting this right means we have to push forward under a new planning system and we're doing this as quickly as possible to protect the borough from speculative development."

Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Cllr Andy Konieczko

Changes to planning decisions

The way some planning applications are decided in the borough has changed.

Under new government requirements, householder applications and smaller-scale developments must be decided by planning officers. Larger or more significant applications may be considered by the planning committee if they meet the criteria.

Previously, referrals to committee were decided by councillor requests and the number of objections received. This means some applications submitted before the changes came in on 31 October may now be decided by officers rather than the planning committee.

Find a planning application (https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/view-planning-applications)

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Your rubbish and recycling

Content published 20 November 2026

It's not rubbish! You could be recycling more than you think

Last month, we introduced changes to your waste collection service.

Our crews now collect your rubbish every two weeks with grey waste bins emptied one week and green recycling bins the next. We continue to collect food waste every week and glass every fortnight.



Targets set by the government to help improve our environment mean, as a borough, we need to double the amount we recycle and halve the amount we throw away.

We've set out a plan to achieve this by reducing what we waste, reusing and repairing items, and recycling all that we can.

You've also told us you want to recycle more so we've introduced new ways to recycle and we're planning more next year.

Right now, we're supporting residents to recycle more and adjust to the new collection schedule. Analysis of our grey waste bins shows that on average, over 40 per cent of their contents could be recycled using the services we provide. If you haven't tried the food waste service or your glass box is gathering dust, put them to use now.

Find out information about your bin collection service, including reporting missed collections and ordering additional recycling bins (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bins)

Food waste collected every week

Peelings, plate scrapings, tea bags and coffee grounds, meat and fish bones, out-of-date food and pet food. Use weekly to free up space and stop smells in your rubbish bin.



Recycling collected every two weeks

Plastic bottles (no other plastics yet; see 'Temporary sites to recycle mixed plastics' below), food tins, drinks cans, paper, cardboard and empty aerosols. Flatten cardboard and squash cans and bottles for more space.



Glass collected every two weeks

Clean and empty glass bottles and jars only. Lids can be left on. Do not overfill your glass box so it can be emptied safely.



Garden waste collected every two weeks

A chargeable, fortnightly collection service for garden cuttings. Concessions available.

Find more information on recycling in the borough (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycling)



Drawing attention to food waste

Our food waste trucks have a bright new look thanks to young local artists.

Marking a year since the start of our weekly food waste collections, the trucks have been named and given a makeover using recycling-themed artwork designed by primary-school-aged children.



Peels on Wheels, Core Patrol, The Very Hungry Caddyfiller and Scrappy Doo are among the nine vehicles collecting around 4,262 tonnes of peelings, plate scrapings, eggshells, meat bones and other kitchen leftovers for recycling over the year – the equivalent weight of roughly 355 double decker buses.

On average, around 29% of the waste found in grey bins is unused food. Putting these scraps into your caddy and recycling through your weekly food waste service turns them into green energy and fertiliser and frees up space in your grey bin.

Find more information on food waste recycling (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycling)

Recycling made easy

If you want to find out how to recycle more things from around your home and garden, we've updated our A to Z of waste and recycling on our website. From aluminium cans to yoghurt pots, if you're ever unsure what goes where, it's worth a quick check.

Read our A to Z of waste and recyling (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/a-z-recycle)

Temporary sites to recycle mixed plastics



You can now recycle more at our six recycling sites.

We've added temporary recycling banks for plastic pots, tubs, trays, tubes and cartons at Brighton Hill Parade in Brighton Hill Centre, Castons Car Park in Basingstoke town centre, Overton Hill Car Park, Popley Fields Community Centre in Carpenters Down, The Fieldgate Centre in Kingsclere and Winklebury Centre in Winklebury. Additional sites are also being explored.

Small waste electrical items, textiles, footwear and foil can also be taken to separate recycling banks at these sites.

The mixed plastic banks provide additional opportunities to recycle while Hampshire County Council builds a new recycling sorting facility. When ready, this new facility will allow us to collect more items from home to be recycled including plastic pots, tubs, trays, tubes and cartons.

Find out more about our recycling sites (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycling-sites)

New services planned

We're working on bringing you a new kerbside collection service for small waste electrical items.

We are planning to introduce the new service next year, allowing you to put out old items including kettles, small toasters, hair dryers, hand blenders, small toys, cables and phones for collection.

Changes to bin collections over Christmas

There will be changes to bin collections over the festive period and we've listed the key date changes below.

We will collect extra rubbish sacks left by your grey bin on your first waste collection after Christmas only. Extra plastic bottles, tins, cans, paper and card in clear sacks can be left by your green bin on any recycling collection day.

Your waste and recycling collections will go back to normal from Monday 11 January 2027, unless adverse weather affects bin rounds.

There will be no garden waste collections from Friday 25 December 2026 to Thursday 7 January 2027. Normal garden waste collections resume Friday 8 January 2027.

Check your Christmas bin collocation dates online
(http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/BinCollections)

Normal waste and recycling collection day	Revised waste and recycling collection day	Garden waste collections
Monday 21 December	No changes – normal collection	No changes - normal garden waste collections
Tuesday 22 December	No changes – normal collection	No changes - normal garden waste collections
Wednesday 23 December	No changes – normal collection	No changes - normal garden waste collections
Thursday 24 December	No changes – normal collection	No changes - normal garden waste collections
Friday 25 December	Monday 28 December	No garden waste collections - service break
Monday 28 December	Tuesday 29 December	No garden waste collections - service break
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 30 December	No garden waste collections - service break
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 31 December	No garden waste collections - service break
Thursday 31 December	Saturday 2 January	No garden waste collections - service break
Friday 1 January	Monday 4 January	No garden waste collections - service break
Monday 4 January	Tuesday 5 January	No garden waste collections - service break
Tuesday 5 January	Wednesday 6 January	No garden waste collections - service break

Normal waste and recycling collection day	Revised waste and recycling collection day	Garden waste collections
Wednesday 6 January	Thursday 7 January	No garden waste collections - service break
Thursday 7 January	Friday 8 January	No garden waste collections - service break
Friday 8 January	Saturday 9 January	Normal day

Tree-cycling

You can take your real Christmas trees to one of our recycling drop-off points available from Friday 1 January to Sunday 31 January 2027 to be turned into ProGrow soil conditioner for gardens.

Check this year's drop off points (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/Christmas-tree-2026)

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Your Mayor

Content published 20 November 2026

Communities at the heart of the Mayoral year

Since becoming Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane in May, Cllr Jacky Tustain has seen first-hand the dedication of the people who help to make the borough such a vibrant and welcoming place.



Pictured: *The Mayor with representatives from the Bluefins, Basingstoke Lions and the Aquadrome at this year's Special Schools and Inclusive Gala.*

From community festivals and school events to music performances, charity activities and local celebrations, her visits have shown her that the borough is at its best when people come together. Whether through volunteering, celebrating local events or running groups, these efforts make a real difference.

The Mayor's focus for the year is helping people feel more connected, supported and less isolated. She is particularly keen to support activities that improve physical and mental wellbeing, strengthen community spirit and create opportunities for people to get involved.

She hopes to use her role to champion local organisations, volunteers and initiatives, shining a spotlight on the people and projects making a positive difference across Basingstoke and Deane.

If your organisation, community group or charity is doing something positive you would like to promote, the Mayor would love to hear from you.

To support this work, she has launched the Mayor's Community Chest Fund, that will distribute money raised during her mayoral year as grants to local groups delivering projects that bring people together and improve wellbeing.

Find out more about the Mayor (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/the-mayor)

"Since I became Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane in May this year, I've been working to bring people together and encouraging more volunteering, aiming to improve our communities' physical and mental wellbeing. And if the past few months have shown me anything, it's that those values are already alive and thriving across the borough."

Mayor Cllr Jacky Tustain

Mayor's events



Saturday 5 December 2026

Mayor's Carol Service, St Michael's Church, Basingstoke

Wednesday 27 January 2027

Holocaust Memorial Day, Outside the Civic Offices

Saturday 6 March 2027

Mayor's Variety Show, The Anvil, Basingstoke

For more information visit the Mayor's events page (https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/MayorEvents)

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Your sport, health and wellbeing

Content published 20 November 2026

New home for town's football club

We're helping Basingstoke Town Community Football Club to secure a long-term home of its own.

An agreement is being finalised that would see Hampshire Football Association surrender its lease for the Winklebury Football Complex. The council could then grant a new long-term lease for the facility to Basingstoke Town Community Football Club.

With a long-term home in place, the club would be able to focus on its ambitions to grow and expand women's and youth football, community programmes and training opportunities.



The club would also sign a separate agreement with Hampshire Football Association so it could continue to manage the pitches and carry on supporting grassroots and community football.

The council, football club and association are working together closely for a smooth transition.

Find out more about the football club (http://www.btfc.co.uk/)

Pitch perfect thanks to funding

More football can be played at Queen Mary's College in Basingstoke thanks to funding we've allocated to upgrade two artificial grass pitches.



Students (some pictured) and the wider community are benefitting from improvements to the lighting, fencing and pitch foundations, as well as new 3G playing surfaces.

The work was being supported by funding secured from development. In total, we've allocated £1.2 million from this funding towards new and improved sports facilities across the borough.

This includes a new rugby-compliant artificial grass pitch at Down Grange Sports Complex in Kempshott, the resurfacing and reopening of all six netball courts at Russell Howard Park in South Ham, and new padel tennis courts at Basingstoke Tennis Centre in War Memorial Park.

> *"We continue to prioritise supporting our residents to be more active and one of the ways we can do this is through improvements to facilities to meet demand across a wide range of sports and activities."*
>
> **Cabinet Member for Sports, Leisure and Culture Cllr Kerry Morrow**

Helping you to be more active

Whatever your age or ability, there are lots of ways to get moving and look after your health and wellbeing.

Through our new Active Wellbeing Strategy and by working with partners, we're helping residents access more opportunities to be active. Below, you'll find some of the sessions currently available, from inclusive activities for young people to strength and balance classes for older residents.

Find out more about these sessions and others (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/current-health-initiatives)

"As part of our new Active Wellbeing Strategy, we want to empower residents to be active in their own way, creating happier and healthier communities. Whatever your age, taking these first steps towards making big changes is important."

Cabinet Member for Communities, Partnerships and Inclusion Cllr John McKay

Stay steady and strong

For older residents in the borough there are a number of steady and strong classes to help build strength, balance and confidence.



Residents can attend classes at Basingstoke Aquadrome, Brookvale Village Hall, Popley Fields Community Centre, Oakridge Hall for All and Tadley Health and Fitness Centre.

Building confidence while being active



We work with national charity Sport in Mind to help children and young people build their confidence and self-esteem and make new friends. Young people with additional needs aged over 11 can also benefit from Inclusive Champions fitness sessions in partnership with Serco at Basingstoke Aquadrome.

Feedback from this session has included: ***"We are so pleased that we have been able to find an inclusive gym session for our adult son to attend. He loves fitness and the classes are excellent."***

Get fit while volunteering

Join the weekly Good Gym sessions and get some exercise while helping community projects and isolated people.

So far, volunteers have worked with 15 local organisations, helping partners like Neighbourcare, MindSpace, Basingstoke Disability Forum and community centres. The group meets every Wednesday at 6.15pm at Basingstoke Sports and Social Club on Bounty Road in Basingstoke.

Supporting new mums

New mums can help to repair, restore and rebuild their body safely after pregnancy through a low-cost 12-week post-natal exercise programme taking place at the Aquadrome at Basingstoke Leisure Park and Studio 41 Fitness, Stroudley Road.

These classes help to give new parents the opportunity to meet and become friends with others. The next 12-week course starts in January 2027.



Bike sessions are wheely big success

This summer, we launched our new Ready to Ride sessions to help people who feel less confident on a bike to choose to cycle more often.



Pictured: *The picture shows a member of our Green Team, which helped to organise these sessions*.

Led by professional cycling trainers, the free sessions helped beginners build confidence, learn how to maintain their bikes and improve their cycling skills. Guided rides were also held around Basingstoke, so budding cyclists could gain more experience in different environments and feel more comfortable riding with others.

Over 50 people have already joined a free session. More are coming in the spring.

Ann, who took part in the sessions, said: *“It was a friendly, relaxed course with excellent instruction. This is such a great idea, helping to build a confident cycling community.”*

Find out more about Ready to Ride (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/ready-to-ride)

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Your events

Content published 20 November 2026

Our Love Basingstoke programme brings people together to enjoy free, accessible activities and entertainment throughout the year.

At our events, more residents can enjoy creative experiences closer to home. From family-friendly performances at Basingstoke Festival to hands-on workshops during August Adventures, our events encourage people of all ages to try something new and create lasting memories, without cost being a barrier.

Here are a few of the upcoming events in 2027.

Ready, set, go for Let’s Glow

Thursday 18 to Saturday 20 February

Already becoming a firm favourite with families to brighten up February half-term, our free light trail dazzles thousands of people visiting Basingstoke’s Top of the Town and War Memorial Park.

The last event saw giant butterflies, LED flames and soundscapes, with 2027's event shaping up to be just as vibrant.



Listen Up sounds good

Saturday 20 March 2027



Whether you missed September's event or are keen for more, there's another chance in March to enjoy free live music across Basingstoke's Top of the Town.

During a Saturday afternoon and evening, a range of venues will again host an exciting line-up of musical talent, across rock, acoustic, jazz, funk and metal.

The show goes on for Basingstoke Festival Events

Friday 18 June to Sunday 4 July



This summer Basingstoke Festival celebrated 15 years of free outdoor arts, culture and community with its biggest programme yet.

Next year, it will return again with a colourful parade on Friday 18 June and three weekends of performances in Basingstoke town centre and around the borough, showcasing an impressive mix of national and local street theatre performers.

Find the latest Basingstoke Festival updates (http://www.basingstokefestival.co.uk/)

Find out more about the events above (http://www.lovebasingstoke.co.uk/)

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Your customer support

Content published 20 November 2026

Christmas opening hours

Our council offices will be closed from 4.30pm on Thursday 24 December 2026 to 8.30am on Monday 4 January 2027. For emergencies during this time call 01256 844844 to be transferred to the out-of-hours service.

Keep up to date

There are plenty of ways to stay up to date on what's happening at the council and to contact us:



- **visit our website** (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/)
- see social media updates on Facebook **@BasingstokeGov**
- **sign up to our regular e-newsletter** (http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/SignUp) and get updates on services, news and events straight to your inbox
- call us on **01256 844844** Mondays to Fridays from 8.30am to 4.30pm (except on bank holidays). In an emergency at the weekend, on a bank holiday or in the evening call this number and stay on the line to be connected to the out-of-hours service

For large print, or other formats, contact **communications@basingstoke.gov.uk** (mailto:communications@basingstoke.gov.uk) or call **01256 844844**

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Your advertising

Content published 20 November 2026

Be seen in Basingstoke and Deane



Reach over 82,000 homes in Basingstoke and Deane with an advert in our residents' magazine Your Place.

See our latest rate card and get in touch by emailing Communications Team (mailto:communication@basingstoke.gov.uk) or calling 01256 844844.

Advertising rate card Spring 2027 (/content/doclib/4602.pdf)

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