HOUNSLOW

Community and Council news from around the borough

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Cllr Javed Akhunzada, ward councillor for Bedfont. He will be greatly missed by the community he served, and all at Hounslow Council.

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Hounslow Matters is a quarterly magazine written for Hounslow residents. We print over 108,000 copies and deliver it free of charge to every home in the borough as well as distributing it to our libraries, leisure of residential care homes.

To advertise in our magazine please emai advertising@hounslow.gov.uk or visit www.hounslow.gov. uk/hounslowmatters for more

To view Hounslow Matters online visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/hounslowmatters For translations or accessible formats email: communications@hounslow.gov.uk



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Welcome to the latest edition of Hounslow Matters -Winter 2021

Dear resident,

The sudden death of Councillor Javed Akhunzada on Monday 29th November was a tremendous shock to everyone including his family, friends, and fellow councillors, as well as the residents he proudly represented in Bedfont ward. Since becoming a Councillor in May 2018, he served our borough and his ward diligently. I know he will be greatly missed.



While we are living with COVID-19 as part of everyday life, it remains a risk to public health and our communities. Particularly as we now seek to learn more about the new COVID variant - Omicron. At this moment little is known about the variant and we should not panic. However, we must continue working together to prevent the spread and mitigate the impact as far as possible. We need to be particularly cautious ahead of Christmas, as we know this time of year brings additional risks to the most vulnerable and puts extra pressures on our NHS.

Although the last 18 months have been the most challenging, it has also been the most inspiring. Our One Hounslow spirit saw us win the 'Council of the Year' award at the Local Government Chronicle 2021 Awards in November. This achievement is a testament of the community spirit and ambition throughout the borough, and the determination to always rise to the challenge. I'm absolutely delighted for our residents, voluntary groups, businesses, our partners and those in the emergency services.

As one of the judges on the panel said: "This Council consistently delivers high quality services and shows it is making significant improvements to the lives of its residents. Its compelling narrative has depth and breadth, and the quality of the relationship between chief and leader is strong, as is the collaborative culture between council and community."

The year ahead will undoubtedly bring its own challenges. However, I am confident there will be much to look forward to in Hounslow over the coming months. We will continue to concentrate on your needs and priorities and keep pressing ahead for a more sustainable, healthier, greener, fairer borough for all our residents and businesses.

Whilst we look ahead to a better future for our residents, we must all recognise the challenges of climate emergency. We must work together to make significant and sometimes difficult changes if we are to make a difference to the environment around us. COP 26 highlighted some of the enormous challenges we are facing. Hounslow declared a climate emergency in June 2019 and embarked on our Climate Emergency Action Plan in July 2020.

We should all be very proud of what we have achieved together as One Hounslow during the most difficult period in the Council's history. The Council with your support during this time has always stepped forward, and never back.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Cllr Steve Curran Leader of the Council

Cabinet Member for Corporate Strategy, Planning and Regeneration Member for Syon Ward

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY PROVES SUCCESSFUL

Spurred on by the £20 ShopLocal Voucher, local businesses celebrated the busiest shopping day of the year on Saturday 4 December, Small Business Saturday.

Residents across the borough took to the high streets and shopping parades as the festive period began to give Hounslow businesses a boost ahead of Christmas.

Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, said: "With Christmas just around the corner it's great to see so many people out and about supporting independent traders. **Small Business Saturday is** a fantastic way for us to shine a spotlight on our wonderful local businesses, which is even more important after the months of additional pressure caused by the pandemic and restrictions.

"The wide range of small businesses in Hounslow helps to bring our vibrant borough to life. We are committed to supporting local businesses all year round, not just with the ShopLocal Voucher or in the lead up to Christmas. Protecting the Hounslow pound helps keep our local economy flourishing. There's not long left to use the voucher, so get out and spend it."

Find out more about Small Business Saturday by visiting www. smallbusinesssaturdayuk. com







BRINGING FESTIVE **JOY TO THE** HIGH STREET



Residents are reconnecting and having fun, whilst supporting local businesses in our town centres over this Christmas season through a programme of activity enabled by the Welcome Back Fund. Public spaces across the borough have been alive with festive community events, that showcase local businesses and celebrate our unique neighbourhoods.

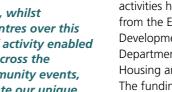
To date, the Welcome Back Funding has looked to support events organised by local community organisations in the borough's four main town centres, including an additional tree to support festive Christmas events, organised by the Chiswick Flower Market. Funding has also been used to create magical street performances such as the Winter's Night Lantern parade in Feltham and upcoming Christmas themed brass band performances as a soundtrack for shopping trips.

Event organiser Charlotte Skinner, Arts Programme Manager, Feltham Arts Association said: "The Welcome Back Fund money has allowed us to heighten the performance aspect of the Feltham parade, making this a great experience for local children and the wider community."



Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Services, said:

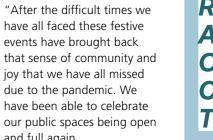
"I'm glad to see that hardworking organisations across Hounslow are getting financial support for creative events that bring residents together in enjoying our town centres, while supporting local businesses.



growth-funding

To find out when all Welcome Back Fund events are taking place or more exciting festive activities visit

www.inHounslow.com



"The Welcome Back Fund events provide the perfect example of how vibrant

and full again.

and diverse Hounslow is. while supporting our commitment to stimulate the local economy and encourage everyone to Shop Local.

Welcome Back Fund events and

activities have been funded from the European Regional Development Fund and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The funding, available until March 2022 is provided to local organisations to help run bigger events, involve more of the community, or leave a lasting legacy. For more information visit

www.gov.uk/european-



ROCKIN' **AROUND OUR CHRISTMAS TREES**

Communities across Hounslow will be welcoming a new addition to the landscape this festive season - real living Christmas trees.

Hounslow Council's Highways team has planted more than 20 Firs, Spruces and Pines in wards across the borough.



Cllr Katherine Dunne, Cabinet Member for Communities and Climate

Emergency, said: "By planting these trees within our communities, we hope to help residents connect with nature, right on their doorsteps. We're looking forward to seeing the trees in their fully decorated splendour over Christmas and to see them grow throughout the year."

It all starts on Monday, 13 December, when residents can break out the tinsel and decorate the newly planted community trees for Christmas.

Planning a festive walk this Christmas? Why not map out a route to view all the Christmas trees at: Hounslow.greentalk.io





respond to needs of residents effectively. Whether it's through direct funding or providing the platform for local groups to reach residents, the Council is committed to equipping our communities with the resources to respond to the needs of residents quickly, identifying problems before they become more complex."

Aiman Elal, Citizens Advice Hounslow, said: "Citizens Advice Hounslow is proud to serve our community and be an active partner of Community Solutions in these challenging times where the demand for our services has escalated to over 70%. We are grateful to Hounslow Council for the additional funding they have made available to us, which will enable us to recruit more advisers and increase our capacity to provide timely support to residents in need



at the Community cafe at St Paul's Hounslow West on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings of each month."

Sue Wood, Community Development Lead, Hope Church Hounslow, said: "We love having the Community Solutions team at our two foodbanks. It so good to be able to point people to the team so they can be helped easily. People feel that having



through early intervention, advice, and practical help to tackle their problems."

Eddie Thomas, Crosslight Advice, said: "Crosslight Advice is delighted to have been working with Hounslow to develop Community Solutions over the past year. This has enabled our independent free debt advice service to be more widely known and available to residents during a very difficult time. Anvone who needs our help can ask the Community Solutions team to make a referral. Alternatively, we are present to speak with

someone to talk to, who can point them in the right direction makes a difference to them. The team are so approachable and helpful. We're really glad to have them with us."

If you need help or

advice visit www.

call 020 7084 9697

hounslowconnect.com

or email communitysolutions@ hounslow.gov.uk

NEW DIGITAL INFORMATION CONNECTING **HOUNSLOW**

Residents, businesses, and community groups can now access a newly launched online information, advice, and guidance hub, Hounslow Connect.

Available for everyone in the borough to utilise, the hub will support the continued work of the Community Solutions team whilst out and about.

Hounslow Connect brings together information about the borough's voluntary and community groups and health partners into one single easy to use place, making it guick and simple to find what is right for you, when and where needed.

Visit www. hounslowconnect.com to explore the platform and find the advice, guidance and support you need.

The Council is also inviting all the borough's charities, voluntary and community groups to register on the website, free of charge. Groups will receive a custom-designed page on the platform which can be edited and changed when needed. To register your charity or group on Hounslow Connect please email hounslowconnect@ hounslow.gov.uk



With the aim of agreeing on how best to halt the effects of climate change, November saw leaders from across the world come together in Glasgow to mark the start of COP26.

To mark the historical climate event, Hounslow Council launched a series of popular and inspirational events designed to engage, update and educate residents and children throughout the borough.

Hounslow House also opened its doors for it first Environment and Climate Community Summit and showcased its plans on making Hounslow a Cleaner and Greener borough. Key sessions included Climate Emergency and Active Citizenship, Clean Air and Transport, Environmental Improvements, and Green Recovery.





Primary school children were invited to participate in a virtual Environmental Summit. Run by representatives from different Council service areas, experts shared their knowledge in Climate Emergency and Environmental Strategy, Energy, and Waste. More than 150 classrooms and 300 students across the borough learnt about the climate crisis, and how best to take action in their local area.

Secondary schools from across the borough also got involved in a mock COP26 conference. Schools were set the task of challenging their fellow delegates and arriving at an agreement on commitments to limit rising temperatures, with each school representing lower, middle and high income nations.

Cllr Katherine Dunne, Cabinet Member for Communities and Climate Emergency said: "Engaging with our residents is paramount if we're to reach our carbon target of net zero by 2030. During the two weeks we held a series of events encouraging all our residents to get on board with the fight against climate change.

"The workshops aimed at both primary and secondary aged children will play a vital role in helping them understand the environmental challenges we all face as a community, and more importantly how best to combat those challenges in the context of their everyday lives, be it at home or at schools.

"Engaging with residents also serves as the ideal opportunity to update on progress made on our journey to reaching our target. I want to say a big thank you to our Community Reference Group members for the fantastic work they do in helping achieve the Council's Green Recovery, and Climate Emergency ambitions."

Find out more at www. hounslow.gov.uk/climateemergency-plan

Here's what some of them had to say:

44

ONE HOUNSLOW

SPIRIT WINS

A robust approach to the

vulnerable and the local

the Year, 2021.

local businesses.

impressive."

coronavirus pandemic, which

economy, whilst continuing to

improve services for residents

has secured Hounslow Council

the coveted title of Council of

Hounslow's triumph in the annual

Local Government Chronicle (LGC)

awards came in what organisers

described as a "truly epic year for

record number of entries. Judges

noted the extent of collaboration

between the Council and the local

agencies, the voluntary sector, and

the LGC Awards," with a near

community, and the quality of

The judges said: "This council

consistently delivers high quality

services and shows it is making

significant improvements to the

lives of its residents. Its work on

different means of intervening

The views of Hounslow Council's

partners on the local Recovery

considered during the judging

Programme Board were also

in the market, is particularly

affordable housing, with numerous

the relationship with other local

protected communities, the

BECKY COFFIN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES. HEATHROW:

"At a time of crisis, it is critical that business comes together with local communities to coordinate our response and work collaboratively on recovery. Our community is filled with hardworking, skilled people, and by working together with our local partners, we have the best chance to drive a sustained recovery for Hounslow and West London."

4

DR ANNABEL CROWE, CHAIR, HOUNSLOW CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP: "I

am grateful to all the partners on the Recovery Board for coming together. This shows how seriously we all take the quality of life of our residents. Now more than ever, the importance of a coordinated system of health and care is vital. By bringing together local partners we will help Hounslow to recover from coronavirus and support our residents to live healthier, happier lives."

Hounslow Council was also Highly Commended in the Future Places category, which recognises councils using emerging technologies to work with partners and the public to make areas more sustainable, healthier, less congested, more connected and prosperous.

Awards 2021

Council of the Year

Sponsored by Irich Municipa

COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2021 AWARD

Hounslow Council
Cabinet members
with the LGC
Council Of The Year
Award trophy



EYE ON THE PRIZE

The eighth annual Hounslow Business Awards, which recognises and rewards the achievements of the local business community across the whole of the borough, saw independent optician, The Eye Studio, win the biggest trophy of the night.

Open to all businesses across the West London Local Chamber network, as well as Hounslow Chamber Members from across the country, the awards celebrated businesses and their response to the challenges presented by the pandemic and Brexit

Joint Managing Directors Andrew Harman and Nick Singfield, The Eye Studio, Chiswick, said: "We are incredibly proud to have received this award.

"I want to thank Hounslow Council and the Chamber of Commerce. Without that help and support we would never have had the opportunity to stop, draw breath, and plan for the future.

"The recent challenges have led to incredible innovation and change across the borough and ensured businesses like us have reinvented themselves."

Cllr Steve Curran, Leader of Hounslow Council, said: "It is an honour to once again support the Hounslow Business Awards and champion the excellence of our local businesses and entrepreneurs.

"The quality, enthusiasm, and passion on show by every entrant to the awards encapsulates the spirit of Hounslow as a fantastic place to work and live."

To find out more about the Hounslow Chamber of Commerce or to join the

www.hounslowchamber.org.uk

To advertise your business for free and play an active role in Hounslow's visitor economy visit www.inhounslow.com and sign up.

OTHER WINNERS ON THE NIGHT INCLUDED:

- ★Best Charity/Social Enterprise: The Mulberry Centre
- ★Best Green Business: **Magenta Security**
- ★Best New Business: **Health Shak**
- ★Best Tech Business: Ajar Technology
- ★Employer of the Year: **Russell Finex**

Free School Meals during festive period

Families that normally receive free school meals will once again receive a supermarket voucher worth £15 a week to spend on lunches during Christmas holidays.

Cllr Tom Bruce, Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Youth Services, said: "We understand the extra pressures families are facing, which intensify during the festive period. The Council is stepping up to ensure no child goes hungry during the school holidays.

"Eligible families should start receiving vouchers at the beginning of the Christmas holiday. These can be used for your food shopping at the supermarket till."

DIGITAL FESTIVAL -**SECOND YEAR OF SUCCESS**

Featuring over 25 live-stream sessions, Digital Festival Hounslow returned, bringing together residents, community groups and the top names in technology.

Running throughout November, events included building employment skills for residents, and supporting small businesses, community and voluntary sector organisations to improve their social media and engagement, and digital working practices. Headline speakers included Microsoft and LinkedIn.



Cllr Pritam Grewal, Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Corporate Performance, said: "Digital Festival Hounslow allows the Council to share the

exciting digital journey we're on with the community.

"This year's festival shone a light on the opportunities available to all of us to create digital change to benefit not just ourselves but our family, neighbours, friends and the wider community."



APPRENTICESHIP TARGET **SMASHED**

In 2018 Hounslow made an ambitious pledge to create 4,000 additional apprenticeship and training opportunities across its neighbourhoods. The aim was to provide residents with more chances to get into local and accessible work; something that has proved even more vital during the pandemic.

Hounslow has now surpassed its target and has created 4,860 places, with opportunities created between the Council and local employers, and within the Council itself, meaning that employees can gain the right skills to

access a greater choice of appropriate, meaningful work, that pays well and allows job progression.

Mursal Ayubi, a Business Support Officer Apprentice, with Hounslow Council, said: "I've been an apprentice for three months now and I love it. I'm learning and gaining new things every day, as well as meeting new people and understanding how the Council works and the many benefits it provides for the community. I really recommend apprenticeships because it gives you a real insight of your future as well as giving you the independence to take control."

Helping all children have fun this Christmas



Children aged between five and 15, who are eligible for free school meals, can utilise the Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF), which is set to return during Christmas. Sports coaching, cookery lessons, arts and crafts and computer skills workshops are just some of the free activities available at 27 different sites across the borough.

Hounslow Council is working in partnership with local schools, community organisations, faith groups as well as existing holiday and sport club providers

> Cllr Tom Bruce, Cabinet Member for Education,

Children and Youth Services

to deliver the programme.

at Hounslow Council, said: "We want all children in Hounslow to have happy and healthy holidays. It is so important that our young people are supported to get a great start in life by taking part in stimulating activities that help to build their social skills and self-confidence.

"We know that the holidays can be a challenging time for many families in our borough, which is why we are doing all we can to ensure that children receive a healthy, nutritious meal during the day."

Eligible children will receive a holiday activity voucher from their school. Please visit the www.hounslow.gov.uk/ holidayactivityfund to find out more information on how to book activities.

Green Skills Academy

As part of its vision to deliver lifelong learning and training as well as upskilling residents, Hounslow Council will be launching its Green Skills Academy in early 2022.

Starting with the Domestic Energy Assessors course, residents can start their career development, whilst becoming a part of the green economy of the future.

Residents can learn about topics such as heat pump installations, retrofit work and more, and the training course doesn't

require any background knowledge within the energy sector.

Completing the five-day course means you will become qualified as a Domestic Energy Assessor and be able to conduct Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)

Other potential career-paths include heat pump installations, retrofit work and

For more information, visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/epc-training



JON VARNEY

COMPETITIVE, RELENTLESS, UNSENTIMENTAL AND UNFORGIVING ARE JUST SOME OF THE WORDS TO DESCRIBE LIFE IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE. BUT FOR BRENTFORD, HAVING RETURNED TO TOPFLIGHT FOOTBALL AFTER 74 YEARS AWAY, IT IS ALSO, AN AMAZING TIME.

Lifelong Brentford fan Jon Varney assumed his role as the Club's Chief Executive in 2019, and at the very top of his agenda was the completion of one of the most complex initiatives in the Club's history.

"Effectively," he explains, "my job was to try and bring the off-field part of the organisation up to the same speed as the on-field part of the organisation that was continually knocking on the door of the Premier League. Over the past 18 months we've also had the challenge of saying goodbye to Griffin Park, our home since 1904 and welcoming our fans to our new home."





VARNEY ON... BRENTFORD'S LOCAL, BUT GLOBAL COMMERCIAL EDGE

"We're in an incredibly fortunate position, from a geographical perspective, that we sit on what we call the 'Golden Mile' and there's a whole wealth of organisations for us to go and talk to about purpose-driven partnerships. Many, quite frankly, don't need brand fame but maybe we can help amplify their work that they're doing in the local community by working alongside our Community Sports Trust."

VARNEY ON... KEEPING FOOTBALL AFFORDABLE

"What we have managed to do, which is really important at the new stadium, is keep affordable football for our fans. A parent and a child can go into the family enclosure and watch Premier League football for just under £500 for the season. We know full well that we can earn our revenues from other areas, which is why we also decided to roll our kit over for an extra season. We want being a Brentford supporter to be affordable for families in the area."

VARNEY ON... LIVING THE DREAM

"Everyone is incredibly proud of where the football club is now and as long as we stick together – and you'll see around this place that people go around with a smile on their face – we know how hard we've all worked to get to where we've got, we don't want that taken away from us. So everyone will just keep working their socks off to try and achieve, year on year."

VARNEY ON... HOUNSLOW COUNCIL

"The last 20 months have been incredibly tough for everyone and we, as a Club, have tried to do what we can to work with the Council for the benefit of the whole borough, particularly on the Recovery Board during the Covid pandemic. We are proud of our position in the community and always feel like we represent the whole area in the Premier League. The stadium we play in is testament to the great relationship the Club has with the Council and we are looking forward to welcoming some of Europe's finest footballers to the borough when we host some games in the Women's European Championships next year."

Join Our Culture Club Next Summer

Summer 2022 will be one to remember as Hounslow Council gets ready to embark on some of the biggest celebrations the borough has ever seen.

Between June and August the Council will be hosting a series of events under its 'Summer of Culture' banner and promoting things to do, see and experience in some of the best places, venues, spaces, and attractions that call Hounslow home.

The programme will incorporate the UEFA Women's Euros in July where matches will be taking place across the country, including our very own Brentford Community Stadium.



Rich in culture and diversity,
Summer of Culture aims to promote
everything that is great about
Hounslow. Whether it's the fantastic
people, iconic venues, historical places
to visit, multicultural communities or
natural beauty spots, together they
make Hounslow a unique, exciting
and vibrant place.

Set to be truly inspirational for generations to come, and leave a lasting legacy, Summer of Culture will also encourage others to be creative and take up sports and get fit.



Cllr Samia Chaudhary, Cabinet Member for Leisure Services, said "Summer of Culture is the perfect way to get people out and about, reconnecting with each other, and the spaces and places across the borough in a spirit of celebration and creativity. After long periods of isolation and disconnection following the pandemic, Summer of Culture will showcase the cultural vibrancy and diversity of Hounslow and encourage local people, visitors, and tourists to shop locally – supporting local businesses, local organisations and the local economy.

"Summer of Culture will be packed full of opportunities to see, get involved and experience the local cultural offering, attend events in our amazing venues, parks, green spaces, support and connect with communities, and generally learn about and enjoy the best of what Hounslow has to offer. It will include exciting events as part of the Women's Euros - with matches taking place right here in Hounslow.

"But it isn't just about the summer – we want to build a legacy for the Summer of Culture to leave behind - one that supports culture for the future, invests in the skills of our creatives and younger residents whilst attracting people back to our town centres and supporting the Council s recovery plan."

We're also looking for views from residents, businesses and organisations who are keen to get involved. What would you like to see as part of the Summer of Culture - outdoor performances, film screenings or even spaces for you to perform or host an event? We are keen to hear from you. Email the team at SummerOfCulture@hounslow.gov.uk





Welcome to our Winter edition of the Housing news

This year has been testing for many, and the housing service is no different. As we slowly eased away from lockdown restrictions and into the "new normal", the pandemic's impact still hits very hard. Particularly those who may be dealing with relationship breakdowns, loneliness or mental health issues, that's why we've put together some helpful contacts for people needing support.

Recently both furlough and the universal credit uplift ended affecting many. We know some residents face financial hardships through no fault of their own, so we've also included some contacts to help.

I wish you all a restful and joyful time with your loved ones this holiday season.

Cllr Lily Bath,
Cabinet Member for Housing and
Social Inclusion

ONE NIGHT ON THE STREETS IS ONE TOO MANY

Homelessness can happen to anybody for many reasons ranging from financial difficulties, relationship breakdown, an unexpected eviction or mental health issues. Unfortunately, the pandemic means many people are facing issues that could lead to having to leave or lose their home.

No-one should have to spend a single night on the streets. If you know someone, or you are already sleeping rough, then get help via: **www.streetlink.org.uk**. You can also call 0300 500 0914. or 999 in an emergency.



EMPTY SPACES USED TO BUILD NEW COUNCIL HOMES

We have been working with Borras Construction to build brand new homes on vacant council-owned land. Built on otherwise empty land in Hounslow, Feltham and Cranford, the homes are part of our commitment to deliver 1,000 new Council homes. All of the homes will be let at Council rent and allocated to households on the housing register.











IS YOUR COUNCIL HOUSE TOO LARGE FOR YOU TO MANAGE?

Is your rent too high? You could qualify to downsize your home at no extra cost to you. This could improve your quality of life by moving to a home that is easier to manage and with lower hills

To find out more, please contact downsizing@hounslow.gov.uk or 020 8583 4452.

WARM

In the colder months, the risk of condensation and mould growth can be a health risk, so here are some helpful tips:

- Ventilate your home regularly and always after cooking and bathing.
 Open windows in opposite sides of the property for 10 minutes to allow clean dry air to circulate.
- During colder weather keep the property at a constant warm temperature. Use your thermostat to keep the temperature at least 18 degrees C, otherwise mould could grow.

- Use extractor fans in kitchens and bathrooms
- Do not cover air ventilation ducts and keep them clean and clear of obstructions
- Do not dry clothes on radiators.
 Use washing lines or dry naturally on a suitable hanger. If using tumble dryers make sure the room and the appliance are adequately vented.
- Wash off mould growth from walls and ceilings with suitable mould remover. Also, clean and wipe down windows regularly to prevent mould growth.

NEW HOMES IN BRENTFORD

Work has started on 96 new energyefficient Council homes in Brentford High Street. Council Leader, Cllr Steve Curran, and Cllr Katherine Dunne attended a ground-breaking event with developers, Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd.

The development, due to complete by summer 2023, also includes landscaped communal gardens, 12 retail units and car parking. It is one phase of the regeneration of Brentford High Street which covers over 11 acres and will deliver up to 800 new homes.

We've pledged to secure an additional 5,000 new and affordable homes by 2022 including 3,000 new Council and Housing Association social rent homes and 2,000 for shared ownership and other affordable housing.

Matt Kemp, Senior Operations Manager, Willmott Dixon, said: "We're delighted to work in partnership with Hounslow to create essential housing and important commercial space. We've a long-standing relationship with the borough and through our network of local supply chain partners, we're proud to support the Hounslow pound while delivering much needed homes."

AVOID CHRISTMAS RENT ARREARS



Christmas can be an expensive time, so we've put together some useful contacts to help you enjoy the celebrations without falling behind.

- Citizens Advice Bureau provides free information and advice on resolving money, legal and other problems: 0300 330 1185.
- Work out entitlement to welfare benefits with this calculator: www. gov.uk/benefits-calculators
- Step Change gives debt advice and support: www.stepchange.org/ start.aspx
- Create your own budget to manage your money: www.budget. entitledto.co.uk/default

- If you fall into financial difficulties due to a change in your employment or earnings, you may qualify for Universal credit: www.gov.uk/how-to-claimuniversal-credit
- The NHS has put together a range of resources including how to budget, manage anxiety, and other links: https://bit.ly/3tXcHze

If you receive Housing Benefit or Universal Credit and need help to meet housing costs, you may be eligible for a discretionary housing payment. More information: www.hounslow.gov.uk/housing-payments

If you are a council tenant, there are several ways to pay rent – check out our website to find a payment method that works for you: www.hounslow.gov.uk/paying-your-rent

what's going on AROUND HOUNSLOW

Welcome to Hounslow

Hounslow is an exciting and vibrant west London borough, with lots of things to see and do. Around Hounslow includes fun things to do for all the family including children and young people. It's advisable to check with the organiser or venue if the event or activity is still going ahead.

Gunnersbury Park & Museum

WILD

Thursday - Sunday, until 6 January 22, 12 - 4.30pm

This autumn at Gunnersbury experience Britain's wildlife as never before in our fun, family-friendly exhibition Wild. No booking required

FREE FAMILY TRAIL: **BEDTIME FOR LIONEL**

Thursday - Sunday: 12 -4.30pm, until 2 January 22

Join Lionel the baby hedgehog on a mission around the museum to find his brothers and sisters and help them prepare for their winter hibernation! No booking required.

CHRISTMAS

23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30 December 21

CRAFTERNOONS

Get crafty over the Christmas holidays.

Join us at Gunnersbury Park Museum for our free family drop in activities and take something festive home. Drop in between 12.30 -

3.30pm.

No booking required but space will be allocated on a first come, first served basis

UNDER 5S: TINY TALES

Feltham Arts

- 31 March 22, 10am -

To join out waiting list, please email charlotte_felthamarts@ vahoo.co.uk

FELTHAM ARTISTS CLUB

First Thursday of the month starting on 6 January 22,

A friendly group of amateur

The Hub, Feltham Library, The

KNIT & NATTER CLASS

Mondays 10am - 12pm starting on 10 January 22 until 28 March

No need to book, just come along!

www.felthamarts.org

KEEP ACTIVE

It's time to move more with Lampton Leisure. Visit www. lamptonleisure.co.uk to find out more about our

www.visitgunnersbury.org/ whats-on

A MAGIC LANTERN

CHRISTMAS SHOW

A seasonal Magic Lantern

entertainment for families in

of Gunnersbury Park House.

Price: £7, booking required.

A GRAND GOTHIC

MAGIC LANTERN

29 December 21, 2 - 2.45pm

Christmas has always been

a time for ghost stories and

the supernatural. Enter the

of the magic lantern with

internationally renowned

magic lantern performers

For more info visit

Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker.

Price: £8.50, booking required

bizarre and fantastical worlds

SHOW

the magnificent drawing room

29 December 21

11.30am - 12pm

CHISWICK HOUSE AND GARDENS

A CHISWICK CHRISTMAS

17 - 23 December 21, 10am - 3pm

Join us this December for a weekend of Christmas shopping and festive cheer. With artisan markets. workshops and Christmas carols.

Wednesdays, 12 January

10.45am: 11.15am -12pm

artists of mixed ages and abilities who paint in all mediums.

Centre, Feltham TW13 4G Call Chris for more detailson 020 8751 2045.

For more info visit

LAMPTON LEISURE

12 days of Fitmas

countdown to fitmas.

BETTERPOINTS

Download the free BetterPoints App - and get going! The App works by totting-up 'BetterPoints' for being active and attending certain health services and Lampton Leisure centres. Visit App Store or Google Play store and register your details.

OLDER ADULTS SPORTS 60YRS+

Tuesday 12.30pm - 4pm, Teas/coffees provided. FREE Social sports inc. badminton, table tennis, basketball, pickleball and

boccia at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub W3 8LQ

Book via the Better UK app or in centre www.better.org. uk/gunnersbury-park

OURPARKS COUCH TO CHRISTMAS IS **BACK!**

Free at-home exercises as we count down to Christmas. visit www.ourparks.org. uk/content/couch-toprogrammes. Why not try Couch to Banghra or Couch to Afrobics too?

JUST PLAY IN HOUNSLOW

Fun, Free Football session for women of all abilities visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/ womens-euro2022 for more information.

WOMEN'S RECREATIONAL FOOTBALL

Get involved as part of the London Legacy Women's Euros 2022. Contact Sian. Osmond@middlesexfa.com to find out more and learn about existing sessions in Hounslow.

CYCLE TRAINING AT OSTERLEY PARK

FREE cycle training at Osterley Park if you live, work or study in the borough, every

Thursday: Beginners 12 noon - 2pm.

Call 020 8980 7998 or email enquiries@bikeworks.org.uk

METRO BLIND SPORT VI SPORTS HUB

Fun, sporting opportunities for blind and partially sighted individuals at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub. as well as at home exercises and activities. Contact charlie.raven@ metroblindsport.org or visit www.metroblindsport.org

GOOD GYM HOUNSLOW

Find out how to become a Hounslow GoodGym volunteer and help out with a range of local projects visit www.goodgym.org/v3/ areas/hounslow

SPORTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 14-19YRS

Satellite Club activities for young people inc. Cycling, Running, Netball, Dance, Disability Football, & Athletics. For more information visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/ sports-clubs

WE ARE UNDEFEATABLE

Ideas supporting older adults and those with long term health conditions to be more active. For info visit www. weareundefeatable.co.uk/ ways-to-move

OUTDOOR GYMS

Why not visit one of Hounslow's outdoor gyms and fitness trails at www. hounslow.gov.uk/getactive

TRY BEFORE YOU BIKE

Try a brand new or nearly new bike with Peddle My Wheels. Visit www.hounslow.gov. uk/try-before-bike for more information.

HANG - CLIMBING WALL, HOUNSLOW

We're so excited to bring bouldering to Hounslow and would love to see you come down and try climbing with us! Climbing is an amazing way to keep fit, meet new people and challenge yourself, and our Introduction Lesson is the best way for you to get involved. If you want to come try it, use the code HANGOUT at the checkout, and we'll redeem your voucher in store! Please note the lessons are suitable for 16+, and all Under 18's must have a registration form completed by a parent or guardian. For more details, visit www.hang.co.uk

PETER PAN

Until 30 December 21

The Arts Centre, Hounslow TW3 1ES

Join Peter Pan and his Lost Boys for the Swashbuckling adventure of the year! Pirates and Fairies and Mermaids, oh my, this year's pantomime has everything to get you jumping out of your seat with excitement.

PAULA REGO



An exhibition by renowned artist Dame Paula Rego at Hogarth's House in Chiswick has been extended until the 27 February 2022.

The free entry exhibition boasts 38 works includes original printing plates made by the artist and 'The Wine Series' - six never-seen-before

prints which are to be given to Hogarth's House.

The exhibition includes a range of works from throughout Rego's career and explores her admiration for Hogarth's work and its influence on her own. Hogarth has always been one of Dame Paula's favourite artists and he has been big influence on her own work.

The pieces in this exhibition have been generously loaned by The Cristea Roberts Gallery. This year saw the completion of the Mulberry Garden project at Hogarth's House, which is managed by Hounslow. This has seen the garden redesigned and the opening of a new learning space, the Weston Studio.

More information: www.hogarthshouse.org









- Get your COVID jabs and booster
- Get your flu jab
- Test regularly, especially before mixing indoors or visiting loved ones
- Look after elderly neighbours and family

Visit: hounslow.gov.uk/get-winter-ready



SCAN ME







Message from Kelly O'Neill, Hounslow **Director of Public**

Every winter brings the challenge of cold weather related illnesses and many more people become unwell. People who have existing health conditions more likely to become acutely unwell and need to get hospital care. There are also:

- circulating chest infections, including flu
- more slips, trips and falls especially amongst our older residents
- higher rates of COVID infection
- changes to the national regulations aiming to reduce Covid cases, especially in response to a new variant

As we all know, last winter rates of COVID-19 were at their highest, and this meant that a significant number of people became seriously unwell and hospitalised. This year, as we approach the winter months there will be increased pressure on our NHS and care services. We need to make sure that these services are available to care for people when they need them for emergency treatment and avoid any delays for people waiting for planned hospital treatment.

If you have been delaying getting your COVID-19 and flu vaccinations now is the time to act, being up to date with your vaccinations; COVID-19 and flu is a life-saver.

You can play your part to look after yourself, your family and your friends and reduce avoidable illness by acting immediately and booking your vaccinations today. For more information see: hounslow. gov.uk/vaccine

The other actions you can take that will help:

- Wear a face covering in mandated designated areas, and in other crowded and enclosed areas where you are near people you do not usually meet
- Use a lateral flow rapid test at least twice weekly to check that you are not infectious, especially if you are visiting vulnerable and older people
- If you have the symptoms of COVID-19, isolate, and book a PCR test via www.gov.uk/getcoronavirus-test or call 119
- Regularly wash your hands
- Keep indoor areas ventilated; meeting other people outdoors is safer

- Keep your home warm, aim for at least 18°C (65°F) if you can, or wear layers of clothing to keep yourself
- ✓ Take advantage of financial schemes and discounts to help you pay for
- ✓ Know which family members and neighbours are living alone and may need a check-in to ensure they are keeping well – this makes a big difference to people's lives
- If you need to see a GP out of hours, you can book an appointment in one of five locations in Hounslow by calling your own GP practice when they are open and ask for a hub appointment, or calling NHS 111

This time of year is when we all get together with those we care about. Let's keep each other safe by taking the actions I have outlined. Wishing residents a safe and happy festive holiday and New Year.

HOW DO I GET MY VACCINATIONS?

You can attend a local vaccination clinic or a pharmacy near you.

For COVID and flu vaccination locations, visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/vaccine



GET READY FOR THE RANGERS

Following a successful pilot programme earlier this year, Hounslow Council and **Lampton Community Services** (LCS) are introducing nine Park Rangers covering 19 of the borough's green spaces.

On-hand to help everyone enjoy visits to the parks, they will also respond to incidents of anti-social behaviour, graffiti and fly-tipping, working closely with the Council's enforcement team to prosecute offenders.

Supporting the existing parks team with horticultural work, the rangers will also have responsibility for waste and recycling management.

Recruitment for the rangers is currently underway with the successful candidates set to be trained and working onsite by April 2022.



Leader of Hounslow Council, Cllr Steve Curran, said: "The new Park Ranger service is an exciting initiative that will help local people to get the most out of our parks and ensure they continue to look their best for all visitors.

"We look forward to welcoming our new rangers on board and working with them to explore Hounslow's great outdoors together."

FELTHAM ARENAS PARKLANDS **MASTERPLAN ACHIEVES MAJOR MILESTONE**



The first phase of a multi-million-pound project to revitalise green and open spaces in Feltham has been completed with a series of new environmental improvements being introduced including:

- New entrances, designed to enhance the look and feel of the space
- Two new footbridges across the Longford River to better connect the
- New dual pedestrian/cycle paths, including an accessible path over the
- Improved lighting to increase visibility and deter antisocial behaviour
- Vegetation clearance and better management of trees and shrubs

The redevelopment programme also includes the refurbishment of the Feltham Park tennis courts. Working closely with local stakeholders and key partners, the scheme aims to combine Blenheim Park, Feltham Arenas and Feltham Park into a connecting green

Hounslow Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure Services Cllr Samia Chaudhary who joined members of the project team onsite to officially open phase one, said: "We want residents to connect with outdoor spaces to increase their physical activity, mental health and wellbeing."

PARK AND PRIDE **FOR HOUNSLOW'S GREEN OPEN SPACES**

New meadows, bug hotels, bee banks, orchards, and communities involved in a series of conservation tasks has ensured Hounslow's parks service have been recognised as the third-best performing and one of the most improved, according to Parks for London.

The GLA's Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodri gues, said: "The Good Parks for London Report's focus on climate change couldn't be more timely. This summer's flash floods were a stark reminder that the dangers of climate change are moving closer to home and something London is likely to experience more frequently. London's parks will have a key role to play in helping us mitigate and adapt to our changing climate.

"The Mayor is delighted to support Parks for London's development into a Centre for Excellence helping those who design, manage and maintain parks and green spaces to respond to city-wide challenges."

RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTIONS OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Your rubbish and recycling collection dates will be different between 24 December and 10 January 2022, when normal collection will resume. Garden Waste and Bulky Waste collections will be suspended for two weeks over this period. Space Waye will be closed 25, 26, 27 December and 1 January.

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 27 December	Tuesday 28 December
Tuesday 28 December	Wednesday 29 December
Wednesday 29 December	Thursday 30 December
Thursday 30 December	Friday 31 December
Friday 31 December	Monday 3 January
Monday 3 January	Tuesday 4 January
Tuesday 4 January	Wednesday 5 January
Wednesday 5 January	Thursday 6 January
Thursday 6 January	Friday 7 January
Friday 7 January	Saturday 8 January

Normal collections will resume on Monday 10 January 2022

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

If you have additional recycling please present this in a clearly labelled carrier bag alongside your recycling boxes. It is important that you present the contents of the recycling in the same way you would using your boxes. For example, all plastic and cans (red box) should be included in one bag, all paper and cardboard (blue box) should be in another and glass (green box) in another. If these are mixed the additional recycling will not be collected.



Cardboard boxes must be flattened, and pieces should be no bigger than 70x70cm in order to fit within our recycling vehicles.

Keep all plastic wrapping and film out of your recycling! To find out more information about disposing of this type of plastic please visit www.recyclenow. com/what-to-do-with/plastic-film



Do not put old batteries in your recycling box. You can take them to any local retailer that sells batteries as they offer a disposal service. More

information can be found at www. recyclenow.com/ what-to-do-with/ batteries-1



Keep our collection team safe by ensuring all aerosol cans are completely empty before recycling them in your red box – aerosol cans that are not completely empty can pose a fire risk at our handling facility and cause injury to our crew.

Excess waste left next to or on top of your wheeled bin will not be collected. Please keep this waste until your next rubbish collection date or alternatively you could take it a local Household Reuse and Recycling Centre. Please check each sites website for opening times over the festive period and terms and conditions of each site.

We ho-ho-hope you don't, but if you do experience a missed collection, or for more information scan the QR below or visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/ christmascollections



PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR TREE IS COLLECTED **PROPERLY**

Real Christmas trees will be collected between Monday 10 January and Friday 21 January 2022. Collections will be on the scheduled Garden Waste collection week for your road - this will be on the alternate week but same day as your usual rubbish collection.



Cllr Guy Lambert, Cabinet Member for Highways, Recycling and Trading Companies, said:

"Putting your tree outside on the pavement on the wrong day might cause an obstruction to pedestrians so we are asking residents to please place their trees, with no lights or decorations, at the boundary of their property, not on the pavement, by 7am for collection. This service only applies to properties using black wheeled bins. Those living in flats will need to contact their managing agent or resident association to arrange a single bulk collection of trees at their development or block of flats."

Managing agents should email their request to recycling@hounslow.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can drop your real Christmas tree off for free between 24 December 2021 and 28 January 2022 at:

- Hanworth Air Park Hounslow Road car park TW13 6AA
- Hounslow Heath Staines Road car park TW4 5AR
- Redlees Park Worton Road car park TW7 6DW
- Bedfont Lakes Clockhouse Lane car park TW14 8QA
- Gunnersbury Park car park via Popes Lane W5 4NH
- Space Waye North Feltham Trading Estate, Pier Road, Feltham TW14 0TH

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Hounslow House and some other Council offices will close at the normal time on Friday 24 December 2021 and will re-open on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

COUNCIL SERVICES OVER THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW **YEAR PERIOD 2021/22**

During this time, residents can still access our services online and via emergency

- To inform the Council of an emergency, please call 020 8583 2222
- View our emergency contact information at www.hounslow.gov. uk/outofhours

For more information please visit www. hounslow.gov.uk/ christmas-newyearservices2021

CANDLE SAFETY

This winter we're warning people to be careful when lighting candles at home. Candles are one of the common causes of fires and the London Fire Brigade (LFB) reports that in the capital last year over 200 house fires involved candles.

The LFB recommends swapping wax candles for 'flameless' candles. Or if you want to continue using wax candles, make sure you put out candles, incense and oil burners when you leave the room and especially before bed. For other candle safety tips visit: www.london-fire. gov.uk/safety/the-home/ candles



Our Winter Gritting Programme has been ready for action since the 1 November with daily reviews and monitoring weather reports to ensure that we are fully prepared for any adverse weather or road conditions.

As temperatures drop, our teams and gritters will do their best to ensure Hounslow's roads remain safe for all users, by spreading some of the 2,500 tonnes of salt stored in the depot of Hounslow Highways, the highways service provider responsible for maintaining the public roads, pavements and street lighting across the borough, as well as

looking after street cleansing, winter maintenance and enforcement.

Working with Hounslow Highways, we have identified the priority routes and critical areas such as those used by emergency services, outside schools and GP surgeries and will ensure that they are attended to first. These routes are listed on our websites.

Our crews cannot always reach everywhere all the time, and salt along with other preventative measures cannot remove all of the ice on the road, so it's also important that everyone stays vigilant and safe when travelling

no matter what method of transport they use.



Cllr Hanif Khan. Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "The team works really hard. often at night or

in the early hours, to make sure the borough's roads are gritted when we have cold weather. To ensure everyone stays as safe as possible, we would also encourage everyone to refresh themselves on how to ensure their own vehicles are ready for winter."

More information can be found on Hounslow Council's website by searching 'gritting'.

USEFUL CONTACTS FOR ANYONE NEEDING SUPPORT THIS FESTIVE PERIOD

THE SAMARITANS offer a safe place for you to talk, whatever you're going through: call 116 123 free, 24 hours a day, 365 days a

Call the **DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE** for free 0808 2000 247 and men can call the Respect advice line: 0808 8010 327.

HOUNSLOW FOODBOX You may be struggling to

buy food, or you may want to donate:

www.hounslowfoodbox. org.uk or call 07719 891787.

THE MONEY ADVICE **SERVICE** gives impartial money and debt advice: call free 0800 1387 777 or visit www.moneyadviceservice. org.uk

AGE UK (open 365 days a year) provides advice and information for older people including money, health, housing and loneliness: 0800 678 1602

MIND provides advice for anyone experiencing mental health problems: 0300 123 3393.

Our website has a range of information to assist with housing queries: www. hounslowhomeless nessprevention. commonplace.is



OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE MAYOR OF **HOUNSLOW**

The Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow, Councillor Bishnu Gurung, has been busy supporting our residents and businesses over the autumn months. He has also been raising vital funds for his chosen charity of the year, SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association).

Councillor Gurung is the 56th Mayor of London Borough of Hounslow. He is an ex-British Gurkha Staff Sergeant, and was first elected to the Council in 2014, serving the Hanworth Park ward since then.

Happy Diwali

The Mayor celebrated Diwali at a special function hosted by the Royal Maharani Boutique at Silverdine Banqueting Hall, Hounslow.



Annual Katina Festival

Mayor's Inaugural Dinner

The Mayor held his Inaugural Dinner celebration and charity auction in October, at our Council offices in Hounslow.

The event was a great success raising £2,962.50 for his chosen charity of the year, SSAFA.



Fundraising in Isleworth

The Mayor joined SSAFA volunteers and Reserve Forces Cadets at Tesco, Isleworth for a local SSAFA fundraising drive.

The Mayor joined Isleworth

Poppy Appeal 2021

Royal British Legion branch to launch the annual Poppy Appeal for 2021.



Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday

The Mayor attended the annual Katina Festival, a Sri Lankan Buddhist Festival, at Isleworth Public Hall. At the celebrations, the Mayor served food to local Buddhist Monks and Nuns.



joined Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday Services at Holy Trinity Church in Hounslow and the War Memorial in Feltham.

Across the borough, Council representatives attended other war memorials on behalf of the Mayor, to show their respects for those fallen past and present in Hounslow.



In November, The Mayor



Let it glow!

The Mayor joined residents for the Hounslow town centre winter lights switch on celebration.

The event included a procession through Hounslow High Street and special performance in Bell Square.



International School of London

The Mayor visited the International School of London, based in Chiswick. He met with pupils and teachers studying for the International Baccalaureate.



Mayor Bishnu **Gurung's JustGiving** Page



If you'd like the Mayor to attend your civic event, charity or voluntary organisation please get in touch with mayor@hounslow.gov.uk



KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS 2021

BEDFONT



Gheorahe



Siddhu



Cabinet Member Highways, Recycling and Trading Companies

BRENTFORD



Collins



Chair of Planning





Leader of the Opposition

CHISWICK HOMEFIELDS



Vacancy







CRANFORD





Khulique Malik





Puneet Grewal





FELTHAM WEST



Deputy Mayor



Chair of Bedfont, Feltham and Hanworth Area Forum



Mohammed Umair

HANWORTH



Cabinet Member Adults, Social Care and Health



Chaudhary Cabinet Member Leisure Services



Chair of Licensing





Bishnu Gurung Mayor

Cabinet Member Transport and One Hounslow

HESTON CENTRAL



Harleen Atwal Chair of Heston and

Cranford Area Forum



Shivraj Grewal





Surinder Purewa

HESTON EAST



Kamaljit Kaur



Gurmail Lal



Amrit Mann

HESTON WEST



Lilv Bath Deputy Leader of the Council Housing and Social Inclusion



Balrai Sarai



Shantanu Rajawat Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate

HOUNSLOW CENTRAL



Chair of Central Hounslow Area



Pritam Grewal Cabinet Member **Customer Services and** Corporate Performance



HOUNSLOW HEATH





Vickram Grewal



HOUNSLOW SOUTH



Cabinet Member Education, Children and Youth Services



OSTERLEY & SPRING GROVE



Karen Smith

HOUNSLOW WEST





Sohan Singh Sumra



Jandish Sharma Chair of Audit and Governance Committee

ISLEWORTH



Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Salman Shaheen



Unsa Chaudri



Richard Fason

 $www.hounslow.gov.uk/democracy_and_$

elections or call 020 8583 2265



Chair of Isleworth

and Brentford Area

Forum To find out which ward you live in, who your councillor is and how to contact them, visit

TURNHAM GREEN



Biddolph

Chair of the Chiswick

Area Forum

Cabinet Member Communities and Climate Emergency





Key Labour Cabinet

Leader of the Council Corporate Strategy, Planning and Regeneration

