

HOUNSLOW matters

Spring 2022

Community and Council news from around the borough

FAIRER, GREENER, STRONGER

*Building a better
borough*
p15

*Crackdown on
flytipping*
p9

*Improvements
planned for
parks and open
spaces*
p12

“My foster mum showed me love and taught me how to be the best mother to my child.”

Think about fostering and
CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE



Larrissa, a care leaver from Hounslow, with her son

Support you will receive from Hounslow Council as a foster carer:

- **Fostering allowance of between £600 and £868 per fortnight**
**depending on the child's needs and complexities*
- **Dedicated supervising social worker**
- **Exemption from paying Council Tax**
- **Specialised training programmes**
- **24-hour support helpline**
- **Free Merlin passes and sports and leisure membership**
- **Placement stability support from the Fostering Teams Psychotherapist**



SCAN ME

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Welcome to the latest edition of Hounslow Matters – Spring 2022



Dear Resident,

At the Borough Council meeting on 1 March 2022, I announced that I will not be standing in the upcoming local elections on the 5 May 2022. This is because I have recently been diagnosed with cancer – and as you can imagine this has been a shock to me and my family and friends. That said, I have had excellent care and support from our brilliant NHS. My treatment and recovery will take a few months so I am sure you will understand my reason for standing down.

It has been an absolute honour and privilege to have been able to serve you as Leader of the Council since 2014. I would like to thank you all for the support you have given to the Council in whichever way, and to me personally.

We live in a wonderful borough, an exciting, forward looking, and dynamic place. All our schools are now 'good' or 'outstanding'. 21 of our parks now have green flags. We will have built 1,300 new council homes since 2018. Everyone has worked tirelessly together to fight the pandemic from individual residents, community groups, and businesses who all came together to protect the most vulnerable in our communities during the most serious health emergency this country has faced in generations.

I am particularly grateful to all those who have worked in the emergency services, council staff, our local partners like the Metropolitan Police Service, the NHS, the voluntary sector and others who worked throughout the pandemic on the frontline. From lorry drivers to supermarket staff, teachers and support staff, to waste and recycling operatives and our street cleaners - and many more - you know who you are, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you have done for the borough.

I am extremely proud of the achievements of this Council. This culminated in the London Borough of Hounslow being awarded the coveted 'Council of the Year' in October last year by the Local Government Chronicle. This is an annual national award which Hounslow Council has never won before. I believe this is an outstanding achievement, as we were not only judged on our response to managing the COVID pandemic but on our work in, and with the communities we serve, and for our plans for the future. It truly is a recognition of the One Hounslow spirit we've shown.

Since 2018, we have created over 4,000 new apprenticeships and training opportunities, invested new money in our roads and pavements and distributed over £70million worth of grants to local organisations and businesses. We have

provided over 9,500 children with free school meals throughout the pandemic and will continue to do so. We set up the shop local voucher scheme with a £20 voucher given to every household which resulted in £1million going to local shops into our high streets and shopping parades.

I've highlighted just some of the things we've been doing but we have also continued to do our day job - keeping our communities safe, investing in extra police, looking after our most vulnerable, particularly the young and the frail. We've ensured our waste and recycling rates improved, and made it easier and safer for our residents to walk and cycle. As well as investing in our parks, libraries, leisure centres and open spaces, we've brought those services back into the management of the Council and ensured all staff now receive the London Living Wage.

As we look ahead, I am confident the Council is in a strong position to deliver and continue to improve the services people want and need. We will continue to create an environment that is cleaner and greener, and help people to fulfil their aspirations by providing new opportunities and ensuring they have the right skills and knowledge to face the future. Our principle since the start of the pandemic has been to be a Council that is always stepping forward, and never back. We remain committed to that principle, as the very basis for delivering the fairer, greener, stronger, Hounslow that residents today and in the future deserve.

This will be my last Hounslow Matters magazine before I leave office on the 10 May 2022. Therefore, I would like to personally thank you for your support and wish you and your family all the best for the future.

Best wishes,

Cllr Steve Curran
Leader of the Council
Cabinet Member for Corporate Strategy, Planning and Regeneration
Member for Syon Ward Page 4 Summer of Culture



MANY CULTURES, ONE CELEBRATION, ONE SUMMER

This summer Hounslow is planning its biggest ever programme of creativity and sport between June and August 2022. Hounslow's Summer of Culture will bring together activity and events for all our residents, fusing together local projects and national events across the borough, with music, performances, sport, history, storytelling, park events and much more.

Hounslow Council, alongside local organisations, partners, communities and voluntary groups will aim to deliver a plethora of exciting activities to celebrate the places, spaces and more importantly the people that live and work in the borough. This summer promises to be exciting with something for everyone to

see, take part in, hear or enjoy.

This year's Summer of Culture celebration will coincide with two big events, the first being the Queen's Platinum Jubilee long bank holiday weekend from Thursday, 2 June to Sunday, 5 June - and we're keen for our communities to be involved.

The second event will be the UEFA Women's Euro 2022 competition from Wednesday, 6 July – Sunday, 31 July, with four matches taking place right here in the borough, at Brentford Community Stadium. The biggest women's sporting event in Europe will not only attract a huge audience to the borough but also leave a long-lasting legacy for women and girls to take up or follow football.



Hounslow Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure Services, Cllr Samia Chaudhary said, "This summer promises to be one of the biggest celebrations our borough has ever seen. Our Summer of Culture provides an exciting programme of activities focusing on the diverse community, places and culture that make our borough great. We are combining this with celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the UEFA Women's Euros, to make it an unforgettable three months.

"Not only are we looking forward to getting together as a community, we are keen to welcome the many visitors who will be drawn to Hounslow by this impressive calendar of events."



To find out more about the latest news on Summer of Culture and events being held visit www.inhounslow.com or if you would like take part or host an event as part of the celebrations email the team at summerofculture@hounslow.gov.uk

WILDCATS FOOTBALL CENTRES offer girls aged 5-11 a chance to try football for the first time and provide regular opportunities to play. Clubs and organisations looking to set up their own Wildcats Centre can find out more about the support on offer by visiting: www.thefa.com/wildcats or check out: find.Englandfootball.com/?onboarding=true

UEFA WOMEN'S EURO 2022
Free resources for schools have been designed to help inspire and unite schools and communities to grow the women's game and help provide a legacy for the Women's Euros 2022. Schools packs will be available for primary and secondary schools in Hounslow in July.
More information www.hounslow.gov.uk/womens-euro2022

Celebration & Jubilation

Communities are being supported to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II taking the throne. This makes her the first British monarch to reach a Platinum Jubilee.

To support people across the borough to mark the occasion, the Council is waiving all street party fees and has set up a grants programme to fund community celebrations up to £1,000.



The Council itself will be organising an event to coincide with the national beacon lighting celebration on the evening of June 2.



Cllr Steve Curran, Leader of Hounslow Council, said: "The Queen is the epitome of public service. She has been a constant source of inspiration, pride and stability for generations, and I know there are many people across Hounslow who will want to join us in wishing her a happy and healthy anniversary and a fantastic year of celebration.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for our communities to come together and celebrate her outstanding achievement."

For information on organising a street party or applying for a community grant, visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/jubilee



Cllr Tom Bruce with Headteacher Ms Khalil and children from Hounslow Town Primary School

HOUNSLOW SCHOOLS RECEIVE TOP MARKS

Schools in Hounslow have received very positive reviews from regulatory inspector Ofsted.

All schools in the borough have now been rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, the regulator responsible for standards in education, children's services and skills.*

A total of thirteen primary schools, six secondary schools and two special

education schools received the highest rating of Outstanding from inspectors.

Cllr Tom Bruce, Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Youth Services, said: "These reports show that our schools are helping to provide bright futures for every child in the borough.

"I'm immensely proud of the hard work and dedication shown by our teachers

and school staff despite the significant challenges and disruption caused by the pandemic.

"Learning in a safe and happy environment is critical to ensure our children reach their full potential and achieve their academic and vocational goals."

Cllr Tom Bruce recently visited Hounslow Town Primary School, the latest recipients of a successful 'Good' Ofsted report, to meet with pupils and teachers.

Lorna Bruce, Hounslow Town Primary School Deputy Headteacher, said: "This Ofsted report is a great result for the school and the children, we want ambition for every single one of them. The pandemic was tough on our pupils, even holding a pencil posed difficulties for many when we returned to the classroom. We had to quickly identify the areas they were struggling with because of the pandemic and put things into place to fix them while monitoring the impact and ensuring they are benefiting our children."

Ofsted inspection reports from all Hounslow Schools can be found on the Ofsted website.

*Four schools in the borough have yet to undergo Ofsted inspections due to mergers.

Can you transform a child's life?



Foster Care Fortnight, an annual campaign to raise the profile of fostering, and show how foster care can transform the lives of children and young people, is set to take place between 9-22 May.

Hounslow needs short- and long-term foster carers from all walks of life to help children and young people in need of care across the borough. Short term foster carers provide a home for children who are temporarily unable, for a range of reasons, to live with their own family. Long-term foster carers provide a home to children up until age 18, and possibly beyond, embracing them as part of their family.

Children of all ages need foster care, from babies to teenagers. Some may be young parents, some may be children on their own, and some will be siblings who need to stay together.

We are looking for foster carers from borough and surrounding areas. Advice and support is always available to carers, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with a generous weekly allowance paid to meet the needs of each child placed.

To find out more, please visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/fostering



Hounslow residents could be entitled to help with their heating bills

FUNDING CAN HELP RESIDENTS WITH RISING ENERGY BILLS

Hounslow residents could be entitled to energy-saving measures to help with the rising costs of heating bills.

The Council is promoting two schemes that could help eligible households to cut their bills and reduce carbon emissions in our borough.

Better Homes Better Health supports vulnerable residents, including people aged over 65, low-income families with children under five and people with long-term health conditions. You could be entitled to a home energy assessment, advice on energy saving and bills and support with claiming the Warm Homes discount. The scheme can also provide free, small energy-saving measures such as draught-proofing and energy monitors.

The Green Homes Grant Scheme can also provide support for homeowners and people in rented accommodation on low incomes, whose homes have a reduced energy rating.

Under this scheme, residents could be entitled to up to £10,000 worth of government funding to pay for energy-efficient measures like wall, loft and hot water tank insulation.

The scheme also offers support with fitting environmentally friendly technology such as heat pumps and energy-efficient boilers.



Hounslow Council's Cabinet Member for Communities and Climate Emergency, Cllr Katherine Dunne, said: "We all need to use our heating systems more over the winter months. These schemes offer vital improvements which could benefit people across Hounslow who are on low income and find it hard to heat their homes.

"Improving the energy efficiency of our homes will also help to reduce carbon emissions in our borough which supports our ambitions around climate change."

To find out more about Better Homes Better Health, visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/better-homes or call Groundwork London on 0300 365 3005.

You can find out more about the scheme and links to an online application form, at: www.hounslow.gov.uk/greenhomesgrant or call 0800 233 5655.

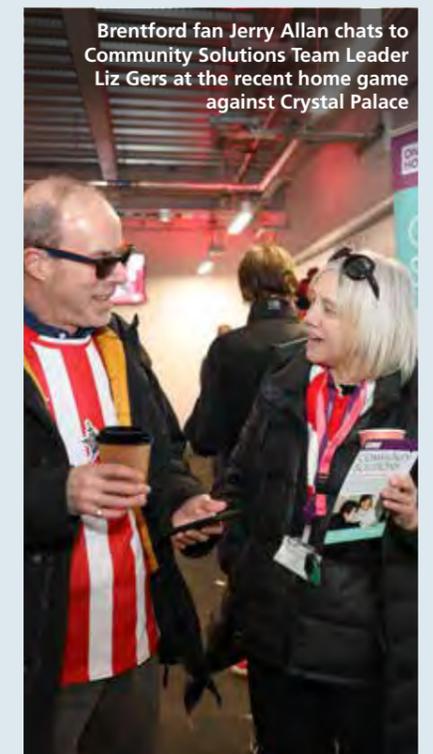
Connecting Communities

Living costs continue to rise, creating extra challenges and strain to everyone in the borough. The Council's Community Solutions team is well equipped to help residents by connecting them to support and information, managing concerns before they become more complex.

Community Solutions can also be accessed via the Hounslow Connect website, the borough's new online information, advice, and guidance hub.

Hounslow Connect brings together information about the borough's voluntary organisations, community groups and health partners into one helpful website, making it quick and simple to find support and information.

If you need help or advice please visit www.hounslowconnect.com, call 0208 583 2211, email communitysolutions@hounslow.gov.uk or visit one of the in-person locations across the borough.



Brentford fan Jerry Allan chats to Community Solutions Team Leader Liz Gers at the recent home game against Crystal Palace



HOUNSLOW GETS EXTRA BOBBIES ON THE BEAT

The West Area Borough Command Unit (BCU) has launched the Hounslow Town Centre Team. Consisting of twenty-four additional police officers – one Inspector, two Sergeants and twenty-one PC's - the team will work with local communities and businesses to deal with their concerns.

Inspector Javid Khan, in charge of the new team, was joined by Commander Alison Heydari and Superintendent Anthony Bennett in the town centre for the launch and the officers, alongside Hounslow Council's Enforcement Officers, set about

getting to know the local community and discuss any concerns they may have.

Chief Superintendent Sean Wilson, West Area Commander said:

"Hounslow is one of my key policing priorities; the new Town Centre Team will provide a much needed resource to tackle the many issues which have concerned our residents and businesses.

"This team will work closely with our partners in the London Borough of Hounslow to ensure we provide the best

possible service. I look forward to us working together."

Hounslow Council Leader, Cllr Steve Curran, Deputy Leader Cllr Lily Bath and Cllr Katherine Dunne jointly commented: "The deployment of these additional officers to Hounslow Town Centre is part of the Met's commitment to driving down crime and improving residents' and businesses' confidence that they are doing everything they can to reduce crime and the fear of crime. Based on data and intelligence, London Borough of Hounslow and the Met have placed these extra officers in areas where additional policing is needed. At a time when many of us have felt uncertainty as we move out of the pandemic, as a Council we want to reiterate to our communities and businesses that we will continue to put measures in place to address their concerns and ensure Hounslow is a place where everyone feels safe.

"The relationship between the Council and the Met has gone from strength to strength during the pandemic with a tremendous amount of joint working, culminating in this new Police Team for Hounslow Town Centre and cements our closer working relationship for the benefit of our residents."

The new Town Centre Team is a key development in keeping Hounslow a low crime borough and a safe place to live, work, study and visit.

POTHOLE PLEDGE



An ambitious promise to fix Hounslow's roads reached the end of its journey with the resurfacing of Osterley Avenue, the 81st street to be mended under the Council's 'Pothole Pledge' programme.

Starting with Brentford's Chestnut Avenue in 2018, more than £4 million has been invested in improving roads, with residents invited to report streets that needed attention.

The Pothole Pledge is additional to the established road maintenance programme. In the latest annual State of the City report, Hounslow received a perfect score for its road maintenance asset management for the second year running and was also found to have the lowest backlog of potholes to fix, of any London borough, for the third year in a row.

Cllr Guy Lambert, Cabinet Member for Highways, Recycling and Companies, said: "We know repairing potholes is important to residents and I'm really pleased to report that we actually invested double the amount originally pledged to improve our roads. Thanks to everyone who nominated roads to be improved."

No business like green business

Hounslow Council is leading a city-wide plan to give London's green economy a big boost.

London's Green Economy is currently valued at £48 billion and accounts for five per cent of the city's jobs, but an ambitious new report sets out how the Council will double the size of the city's Green Economy to £100 billion by 2030.

Entitled Building the Green Economy, the report outlines how local authorities and partners across London, will work together to stimulate green innovation and enterprise, support small businesses and help our residents gain skills to pursue new career opportunities.

The plan also maps out how traditional industry will be supported to embrace the kind of technological change that will help reduce the carbon they produce.

The Green Economy Action Plan, promises to bring the Council's ambition to life, accelerating the transition to a low carbon economy, whilst boosting jobs growth.

Hounslow Council's Cabinet Member for Communities and Climate Change, Cllr Katherine Dunne said: "When Hounslow was chosen to lead on this green economy action plan, we jumped at the chance. It is an exciting time for our borough to showcase our great work supporting the environment and share best practice across London and beyond.



"Our collective future lies in a growing green economy, and we are proud to be leading the way."

You can read the Building the Green Economy Action Plan at

www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/climate-change



Cllr Lambert, Dwayne Ewart, CCTV Manager and Cllr Curran at CCTV offices

FLY-TIPPING IS CRIMINAL AND HOUNSLOW'S HAD ENOUGH

Members of the public are being asked to help Hounslow Council crack down on fly-tipping, which blights the streets of the borough and costs taxpayers an estimated £1.3 million a year to clear up.

As part of its 'Let's Scrap Fly-Tipping' campaign, Hounslow will be publishing stills from CCTV footage on its website picturing individuals suspected of illegally dumping waste on the borough's streets. The Council has a wide network of CCTV cameras across the borough and is asking people living and working in Hounslow to come forward if they can help identify the individuals pictured, so appropriate enforcement action can be taken.

During 2021, there were 24,210 fly-tipping incidents on the public highway reported to Hounslow Highways, which manages the borough's highways on behalf of the council. This included 63,343 bags of rubbish dumped on our streets. These fly-tips are estimated to have cost Hounslow tax-payers more than £1.3 million to remove. During this time, we also received an additional 1,887 reports of fly-tipping on private land in the borough.

In 2021, Hounslow Council issued 699 Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping on both public and private land, and also

issued 6,281 FPNs for littering offences. The Council has even put in place a dedicated enforcement team, the Special Waste Service, to target fly-tipping hotspots throughout Hounslow.

Cllr Steve Curran, Leader of Hounslow Council, said: "There is absolutely no need for anyone fly-tipping in Hounslow and I would urge everyone to play their part in helping us to tackle the illegal dumping of waste. It not only makes our borough look a mess but also wastes money clearing it up. This public money would be better spent on adults' and children's care and on other essential services."

Cllr Guy Lambert, Hounslow Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Recycling and Companies said: "There is no excuse for fly-tipping - it's a crime, and we won't hesitate to crack down hard on anyone caught illegally dumping waste in Hounslow. The standard fine is £400, but if you end up in court the penalties are much heavier. We offer so many ways for people to get rid of waste properly and I would call on all residents to do their part to help us keep our streets clean and tidy, and also come forward if they can help us identify anyone pictured in the CCTV images we will be publishing."

CLEANER, GREENER, HEALTHIER HOUNSLOW

Hounslow residents are leading the way in creating a more environmentally-friendly borough, thanks to the recent introduction of three Community Reference Groups (CRG).

Bringing together like-minded community members, the groups look at different environmental issues.

The Cleaner Greener CRG will concentrate on parks and open spaces, whilst the Climate and Clean Air CRG will consider improvements on air quality, supporting the goal of Hounslow becoming a net-zero carbon-producing borough.

Alison Lakey is a member of the Climate and Clean Air CRG. A business manager at Hounslow's Belmont Primary School, Alison has been using her time with the CRG to support the school's environmentally-friendly aspirations.

"Our school is dedicated to helping to make Hounslow a cleaner, greener and healthier place to live. Being part of the Community Reference Group means that we are at the heart of the conversation about these issues in the borough."

Cllr Katherine Dunne celebrates the new energy-saving measures at Edward Pauling Primary, with pupils and headteacher Felicity Sulma



GREENING OUR SCHOOLS FOR A CARBON-FREE FUTURE

A multi-million pound plan to make Hounslow's schools the greenest in London is starting to take shape after the Council was awarded more than £7.6m to introduce carbon-cutting and energy-saving measures across 33 of the borough's primary schools.

The work, funded through the Department of Business, Energy and Industry Strategy (BEIS), includes fitting air source heat pumps to replace

gas boilers for heating, solar panels to generate renewable power, as well as LED lighting and insulation to conserve energy use.

Research has shown that the borough's schools account for 70 per cent of the authority's carbon emissions.

The new measures will remove 1,264 tonnes of carbon dioxide, save more than six million kilowatts of electricity and generate £254,000 worth of savings for the borough each year.

Hounslow Council's Cabinet Member for Communities and Climate Change, Cllr Katherine Dunne, said: "Tackling climate change in Hounslow is vital. We're determined to get a head start as we work to reach net-zero emissions."

One Hounslow borough school that is already feeling the benefit is Edward Pauling Primary in Feltham.

The school has seen a range of new measures installed, including energy-efficient heat pumps and LED lighting. It means that the **school is now producing 47 per cent less carbon and has seen its electricity consumption halved.**

Headteacher Felicity Sulma said: "We are really excited to be a part of the decarbonisation programme. As part of the school's curriculum, our pupils learn about the importance of reducing our carbon footprint and how we can all take measures to prevent climate change by studying the work of climate activists like Greta Thunberg. We have been able to share with our pupils how the works in school are part of taking real action. Hopefully, this will inspire them to continue to take action to make a difference to the world they will inherit."

TIME TO SPRING INTO ACTION

Now that spring has finally arrived and the days are getting longer and brighter, there's never been a better time to get around the borough by bike or foot.

There are plenty of cycling and walking routes across and through Hounslow, many of which provide a healthier and cheaper alternative to travelling by car.

Hounslow Council has a range of initiatives in place to promote active and healthy communities improving road safety, and reducing emissions are two key ways to make the borough a place where more people can feel confident walking, cycling and getting active outdoors.

Cabinet Member for Transport, Cllr Hanif Khan, said: "I've been a keen cyclist for years and its improved my fitness and helped me enjoy our beautiful parks and open spaces. Cycling is an opportunity to see the borough through a different lens helping us connect with people and the nature around us to help bring peace and tranquillity to our busy lives. I know that by choosing to cycle, even on a short journey, I am helping to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality for us and future generations."

TIME TO PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

If you're new to cycling or want to improve your skills, then you can sign up for free training sessions on our website. There is also lots of information on cycling groups, free minor bicycle repairs and street safe storage facilities.

For more information please visit our website at: www.hounslow.gov.uk/cycling

WE ARE STREETS AHEAD

School Street schemes aim to restrict motor traffic in the immediate area around a school. Limiting the number of private vehicle journeys to and from school reduces air pollution and improves the health of children.

Where a School Street scheme is in place, traffic is temporarily restricted on the school street and on nearby roads and enforced by cameras which recognise number plates. Signage is clearly in place and pedestrians, cyclists and residents' vehicles are not restricted.

Headteacher at Springwell School, Heston, Mrs Kamm Grewal said: "Springwell has had a School Street since September 2020 and it's done wonders in significantly reducing the traffic on Spear Lane. Our children and staff feel safer coming to school and residents are happy that there is less traffic build up. It has also encouraged parents to walk their children to school.

"We can definitely see the benefits of less traffic and a happier journey coming into school!"

PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS AT HEART OF NEW HIGHWAY CODE CHANGES

Important changes to the highway code came into force in January, with the aim of giving priority and increased protection to pedestrians and cyclists, who may be at most risk in the event of a collision. It's important that all road users are aware of the changes, are considerate to other road users and understand their responsibility for the safety of others.

Find out more at www.gov.uk

Climate and Clean Air CRG member Alison Lake (left) takes part in a cleaner greener litter pick with children from Belmont Primary



THE BEST IS YET TO COME FOR BOSTON MANOR PARK

The multi-million-pound redevelopment of Boston Manor Park continues with more exciting developments set to take place.

In 2020, this historic Hounslow park benefited from a £5m cash boost from the Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund to bring it back to its former glory.

The plan will improve access throughout the park and restore some of its best features, including the famous lake. There will also be a new cafe and learning space, improved public toilets, and changing facilities.

Improvements throughout the park are beginning to take shape with an accessible path through the lower

meadow now complete. The construction of new paths to link to the central path are also underway, along with an accessible nature trail. Refurbishment of the changing rooms is also progressing, with a new roof and internal alterations.

Conservation activities, and health and nature walks, ensure there is plenty to get involved with. Why not try it out by joining a community walk every Friday at 10am or a conservation volunteering every Tuesday at 10am. For more information, visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/BostonManorPark



TREE GIVEAWAY LEAVES LASTING LEGACY

What started out as an idea to raise awareness about climate change has turned into Hounslow's own virtual forest of 500 trees.

Hounslow Council, which pledged to give away the trees for residents to plant in their gardens, received a brilliant response from residents wanting to plant for a better future. To secure a coveted tree, residents had to register through the Council's environmental web portal, Hounslow GreenTalk and attend a dedicated collection event.



Deputy Head Girl at Gumley Convent School, Kimberly Dias, who collected a tree for her school said: "We will be dedicating it to all the lives lost to Covid and we want to commemorate the NHS for all the wonderful work they are doing."

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Northcote gets new look – work has started on the Northcote Nature Reserve project, which aims to transform the former recreational ground into a more natural environment, supporting a diverse range of species and habitats.

The project will create a tidal inlet and riverbank terracing and is a chance for the community to find out more about

wildlife and climate change. The nature reserve provides an opportunity to create a new relationship between the community and this natural environment, designed to provide mutual support for public wellbeing, the community, and enriched biodiversity.

Big splash in Inwood Park – there are ongoing improvement works to the water play facility and its surrounding landscape

to provide a fun play space with seating and trees. Watch this space!

Better access at St Paul's – we are continuing the playground improvement works by refurbishing the MUGA (Ball Court), creating better access and enhancing the surroundings with planting beds and trees. Visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/stpauls-playgrounds



Cllr Melvin Collins, Cllr Samia Chaudhary, Cllr Corinna Smart and Cllr Guy Lambert at Watermans Park

DIVE INTO THE NEW LOOK WATERMANS PARK

Work is nearing completion on improvements to Watermans Park in Brentford, which includes a new cycleway and footpaths, new hedges, planting and wildflowers. The park will also have new social areas, an outdoor table tennis table and a covered stage area for performances and exercise sessions.

Chair of The Friends of Watermans Park, Phil Jones, said: "We are now looking for more people to get involved and make the most of the possibilities that

the landscaping and new facilities offer. We cannot wait for a great Spring re-opening!"

Hounslow Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure Services, Cllr Samia Chaudhary, said: "The improvements to Watermans Park will make this popular green space even more accessible and enjoyable for visitors of all ages. The result will be an attractive new outdoor space that everyone can use, enjoy and be proud of."

BRIDGING THE GAP



Cllr Samia Chaudhary joins residents and members of the project team on one of the two new bridges at Feltham Arenas Parklands

Visitors to Feltham Arenas Parklands can now cross the water to enjoy everything this beauty spot has to offer.

As part of an ongoing series of improvements, residents and visitors can get into the parklands via two new bridges over the Longford River. The bridges are part of the £1m plan to connect the entire area for walkers and cyclists.

The recently opened bridges herald the end of the first phase of the Feltham

Arenas Parklands Masterplan. Other improvements include new paths, improved lighting and the clearing of vegetation to make the area look its best.

The recent improvements have also seen the park's tennis courts refurbished and reopened to the public.

The second phase of the masterplan will focus on creating a sports and physical activity hub. It includes the restoration of the athletics track and new play features.

COVID-19 – WHAT COMES NEXT?



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

We all know that looking after our health and wellbeing is incredibly important, however we often do not always make it our priority. As we move towards Spring now is the time take action to get up to date with any health appointments that you have missed whilst our NHS services have been focused on tackling winter health emergencies and the response to another Covid-19 wave.

As Covid measures for many of us have been lifted, and we can start to feel that we can move back to our lives without restriction I must advise caution; many new Covid infections are occurring every day, and our borough rates, along with many outer London boroughs, remain high. Risk of serious illness is reduced by being vaccinated, however there are 3 people in every 10 who live in our borough who are not vaccinated at all, and some of those people continue to be at risk of serious illness if infected. Our NHS is also busy,

with usual demands and Covid. One outcome of Covid-19 must be that we pay closer attention to being as healthy as we can be, to act on symptoms of illness, and to start to adopt behaviours that contribute to a healthier lifestyle.



Hounslow borough has lovely green spaces, and we can all be more active every day, for example reaping the health and wellbeing benefits of a daily brisk walk. Add to this a regular sleep pattern, thinking about what we eat, cutting out unhealthy foods and reducing our intake of alcohol and sugary drinks and we can make a real difference to our health and how we feel.

If you need information, advice and support, there are services to help - like One You Hounslow and the easy to use app that rewards you for a healthy behaviour, Better Points. Also make time to visit

the dentist, for yourself and if you are a parent, for your children – too many of us have missed these appointments.

One result of the pandemic has been that really important cancer screening appointments have been missed by those eligible. Screening can detect cancer at an early stage when it is more treatable; delays mean that cancer can be detected late, sometimes too late.



There is also the NHS Health Check programme for residents aged between 40-75 years old. This brilliant programme helps identify a range of health conditions that – if caught early - can reduce long term ill-health. If you've missed any of these sorts of appointments contact your GP or the screening service as soon as possible. Acting early will benefit you, your family and the NHS.



For those people who are struggling with their mental health and are experiencing fear, sadness, anxiety, anger or physical symptoms such as headaches, difficulty sleeping and changes in eating patterns please don't be alone with these feelings. If you feel you need help and support visit www.good-thinking.uk, NHS approved Digital Wellbeing Platform for London and the national Every Mind Matters - NHS (www.nhs.uk) programme to learn more, and be directed to services that will help you.

There are many other actions we can take and should take, and I know we can have busy lives dealing with other pressing life issues that we are facing. All the same, our health is our biggest life asset, and we must protect it, so start small with these actions to get back on track.

BUDGET TO BUILD AN EVEN BETTER BOROUGH

From delivering new council homes and maintaining our roads to the highest standards in London, to tackling fly-tipping and creating 4,000 training and apprenticeship opportunities, the Council has been working hard to make Hounslow a fairer, greener and stronger borough.

On 1 March the Council agreed a new budget for the year ahead, which will help to ensure it can continue to deliver on those priorities, while managing inflation and unprecedented demand for some services.

Making Hounslow fairer

- A place to call home – **delivered 1,300 new council homes.**
- Levelling up - **supported 233 community organisations** to build their digital skills.
- Tackling hunger - foodbanks funded to **provide 65,800 meals to residents** in need.
- Empowering others to help - **grants worth £2.3m for 167 voluntary organisations.**
- Helping low-income families - 9,500 children provided with **free meal vouchers** during school holidays.

Supporting community organisations to help those in greatest need

Crosslight Advice, which provides free, expert debt management advice in Hounslow, experienced an **150%** increase in enquiries at the end of last year so the Council awarded the charity **£49,854** to increase the number of local residents it can support.

Bruce Connell, 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.

"The additional funding will help us to deepen the partnership, with increased co-working alongside the Community Solutions team at drop-in locations across the borough. This will help speed up the referral process, and help us support hundreds of Hounslow residents over the coming year."



Crosslight offers free debt advice at Hope Church, Hounslow

Local families move into new homes in Feltham

In spite of difficult times, Hounslow Council remains focused on delivering more council homes to meet the needs of local residents and those on the Council's housing waiting list, many of whom are living in poor conditions and in desperate need of a new home.

Local families and people with additional housing needs have been moving into **50 new homes in Feltham**. The properties include a range of one, two and three bedroom homes, with some being suitable for wheelchair users.

The Council is committed to ensuring young people in its care receive the best possible support as they prepare for adult life. Young people who are ready to move on and live independently have been given priority for the new homes and will be given extra support to help them as they begin their journey into adulthood.



Local mum, Sky Palin, is delighted with her new council home which she rents from the Council

A responsible budget for a thriving Hounslow



One of the most important tasks for the Council is to set a responsible budget for the year ahead. This is particularly difficult in an environment where inflation is high and the cost of living is going up across the board. We know these are challenging times for our residents.

On your behalf, we are always stepping forward for Hounslow and we are very proud of what we have done in recent years to deliver on all of our pledges and make this a fairer, greener and stronger borough.

Now we want to build on those successes to ensure our communities can continue to thrive when we emerge from the pandemic.

In order to deliver on our priorities and meet growing demand in areas like social care, we have decided this year to raise our portion of the Council Tax bill by **2.99%**.

The increase will help to fund all our vital services, including those which have been at the forefront of our work to support people through the pandemic.

On average our increase works out at about **77p** per week – and we have considered this carefully, knowing every penny counts at the moment for hard pressed families. We are in the bottom third of councils nationally for Council Tax and we remain as committed as ever to delivering great value for money.

Historic Hanworth Park given new lease of life

With a record number of **21 parks** achieving Green Flag status, Hounslow is becoming renowned for its beautiful green spaces.

As part of the Council's **£12million** programme of park improvements, historic Hanworth Park has been given a new lease of life, including fantastic new play equipment, new benches, improved footpaths and the installation of CCTV cameras.

Local resident and parkrun regular, Ray Hutchinson, said: "I love Hanworth Park and it's great to see all the improvements taking place that have been delivered by the Council. Being a parkrunner on a Saturday and having the parkrun track improved has been so beneficial for all the runners.

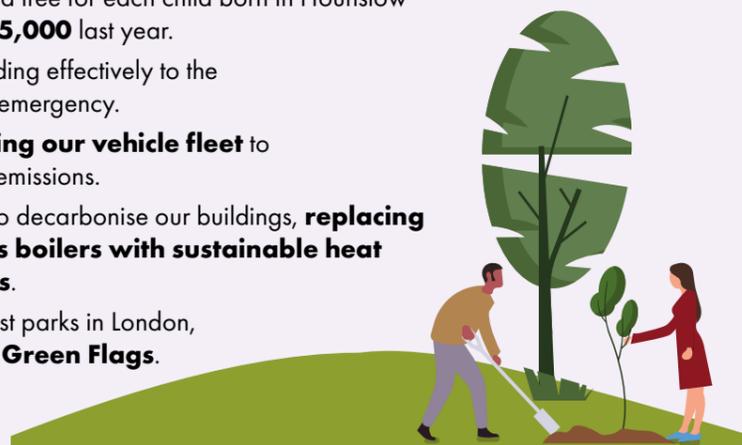
"Having local residents' views and ideas listened to and acted upon is great and we can see the changes and improvements happening."



Runners give Hanworth Park improvements the thumbs-up.

Making Hounslow greener

- Planted a tree for each child born in Hounslow – that's **5,000** last year.
- Responding effectively to the climate emergency.
- **Updating our vehicle fleet** to reduce emissions.
- Acting to decarbonise our buildings, **replacing old gas boilers with sustainable heat sources.**
- Third best parks in London, with **21 Green Flags.**



Help for those who need it

Rebates to help with energy costs



The Government is providing a **£150** one-off Energy Bill Rebate for most households in Council Tax bands A-D. More information will be provided with your bill

Community Solutions is here to help

Working together with the voluntary and community sector and our health partners the Community Solutions team is here to help people before they face a crisis.

The team can offer a wide range of advice and support, so whatever issue you are facing, get in touch if you need help.

Visit **www.hounslowconnect.com** for details or you can call **020 8583 2211** or email: **communitysolutions@hounslow.gov.uk**



Our Council Tax support scheme



We know that some residents will be concerned about rising bills, so our Council Tax Support scheme is available to help those on lower incomes, benefits or who have other circumstances which might make it difficult for them to meet the costs.

To apply for a discount of up to **100%** please visit **www.hounslow.gov.uk/counciltax**

Making Hounslow stronger

- Distributed **£70million worth of grants** to help local businesses during covid.
- **£25million boost to businesses** through the Council buying locally.
- **£1million Shop Local voucher scheme.**
- Offered free, **specialist training and support to 600** small businesses.



Helping businesses thrive and grow

Hounslow is home to a vibrant range of small, independent businesses and cutting-edge start-ups, having one of the fastest growing economies in the country before the pandemic.

But the impact of Covid-19 had a dramatic effect on the local economy and the Council had to act fast to provide vital support to protect businesses and jobs.

In the last year the Council has supported over 1,000 businesses with access to grants and other forms of support. The unique **£20 Shop Local voucher** initiative saw over £1 million reinvested into the local economy, while the Innovate and Grow programme, provided access to the right advice, training and practical support.

Payam Pourkarimi, Owner of Saks Hair and Beauty Salon in Heston and Hampton said: "We have been open and based in Hounslow for 19 years, but without the fantastic support of the Council and David Lloyd Club during the pandemic, we may have been forced to close for good.

"The support provided, like the £20 ShopLocal voucher, have been a lifeline. It's not just the financial support that has given us a boost, but the guidance in planning beyond the difficulties caused by Covid has been really welcome."

The Council is committed to helping businesses to thrive and grow in these challenging times and is working with the sector to re-establish confidence within the local economy.



Zoe and Payam Pourkarimi, owners of Saks Hair and Beauty Salon in Heston which employs 15 people

Spending priorities for the year ahead

Vulnerable children

The Council will be investing in additional social workers to work closely with staff in schools and community partners to help children who are potentially at risk and support families to protect children through early intervention.

There will also be a **£2.7million investment** to build a new children's home in Feltham to improve facilities for looked after children.

Community Solutions

The Council will invest **£850,000** in its innovative Community Solutions model, which connects residents with the right services before they are in crisis. The team knows these are challenging times for residents facing multiple pressures and through early interventions it can better able to address residents' needs before they escalate.

Adult social care

The borough has seen a huge rise in demand for adult social care, so the Council Tax rise includes a **1%** precept which will go towards these rising costs.

Special educational needs

There is increasing demand for services for children with additional needs and the Council wants to provide high-quality services to give these young people the best start in life.

Climate and environment

As part of its commitment to reach net zero, the Council will invest in green enterprise and innovation, support the workforce to develop green skills and create low carbon neighbourhoods.

An additional **£5.4m investment** will help deliver major improvements to the borough's parks, plus **£1.5m** over three years for community-led transport schemes.

Community safety

The Council has boosted its work to make our communities safer with a new team of officers working alongside the community, the police and other partners, to tackle issues. It will also continue to fund extra police to increase the visible presence on the borough's streets.

FINANCE PLEDGE
Ensure sound financial management to maximise available funding for priority services

The Council's Short Breaks programme provides a lifeline for children with additional needs.

Zenon, aged 15, is just one of the young people to benefit from the Council's Short Breaks programme run by Brentford FC Community Sports Trust, which offers free sporting activities for children with special educational needs.

Zenon's mum, Claire, said: "Schemes such as these are a lifeline, and long may they continue to enhance the lives of children with special educational needs and their families across the borough."

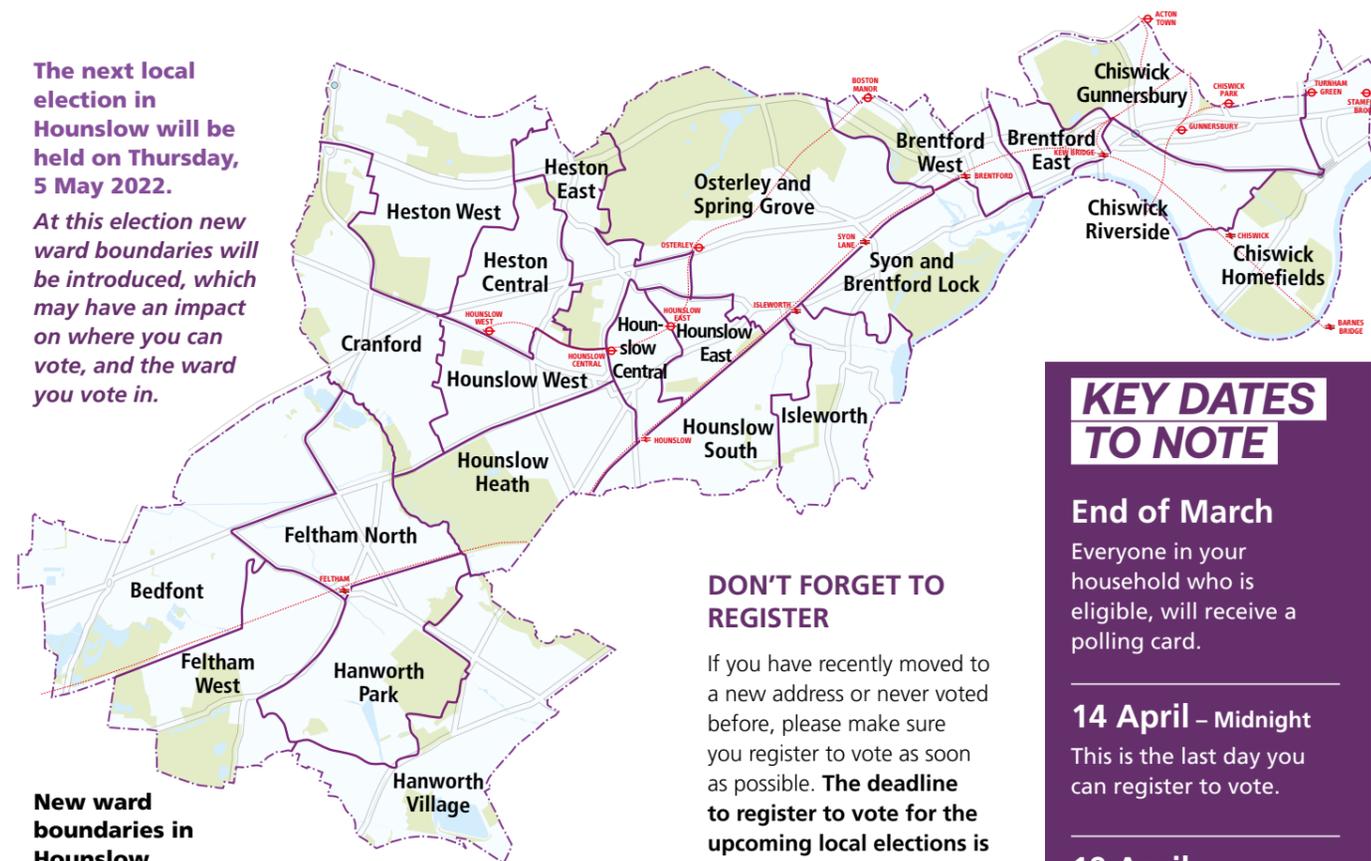


Zenon taking part in Brentford Community Takeover.

IMPORTANT CHANGES AT NEXT LOCAL ELECTION

The next local election in Hounslow will be held on Thursday, 5 May 2022.

At this election new ward boundaries will be introduced, which may have an impact on where you can vote, and the ward you vote in.



New ward boundaries in Hounslow

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER

If you have recently moved to a new address or never voted before, please make sure you register to vote as soon as possible. **The deadline to register to vote for the upcoming local elections is 14 April 2022.**

CHECK YOUR POLLING STATION CAREFULLY

To find out which electoral ward your address will be in and the location of your polling station from May 2022, please visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/polling-station-finder.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO VOTE

If you are unable to attend a polling station on the day of the election there are alternative ways for you to cast your vote:

By post or by proxy – download and print an application form from our website www.hounslow.gov.uk/elections and post it to us at: **Electoral Services, London Borough of Hounslow, Hounslow House, 7 Bath Road, Hounslow TW3 3EB**. Alternatively, you can scan and email the form back to: elections@hounslow.gov.uk. Please ensure scanned copies are clear.

Online registration is easy and simple. Don't forget to have your national insurance number to hand, as you will need this to complete your online registration. Go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote to register today. Registering is not automatic and signing up to other Council services, such as Council Tax, does not entitle you to vote.

WANT TO STAND IN THE NEXT LOCAL ELECTION?

If you're interested in standing as a candidate in the next election, please contact the Council's Election Team on elections@hounslow.gov.uk for more information.

KEY DATES TO NOTE

End of March

Everyone in your household who is eligible, will receive a polling card.

14 April – Midnight

This is the last day you can register to vote.

19 April – By 5pm

This is the last day you can apply for and return your postal vote form or make amendments to any existing voting arrangements.

26 April – By 5pm

This is the last day you can apply for and return your proxy application form.

21 April - 28 April

Ballot papers posted to those that have applied to vote by post.

5 May – 7am to 10pm

Get ready to vote – today is polling day.



FRESH WAVE OF COVID-19 GRANTS

In response to the Omicron variant business owners in Hounslow were provided with access to two new COVID-19 grants. The government's 'Omicron Hospitality and Leisure grant' offered one-off grants of up to £6,000 for eligible businesses, including pubs, restaurants, cafes, cinemas, museums, or soft play centres.

The Council then made available a second limited grant in February, funded by the Government's COVID-19 Additional Restrictions Grant. Businesses not eligible for the Omicron grant could access a one-off payment of £2,000 on a first come, first served basis.

Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, said: "The impact of rising COVID-19 cases on businesses – particularly in the hospitality and leisure sector – was plain to see during the festive period. What is supposed to be a time of celebration and joy was made significantly more difficult as the Omicron variant spread across the capital.

"Making these grants available to businesses in need was really important for us. They are a life line for many businesses and play a huge role in protecting local jobs."

To find out more and stay up to date about future grants visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/covid-business-grants



Remedy Hair and Nails, Isleworth

£20 SHOPLOCAL VOUCHER A CUT ABOVE THE REST

Hounslow Council's innovative and hugely popular £20 ShopLocal resident voucher initiative saw just over £1 million spent across the borough, injecting vital funds into over 400 businesses.



Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate

Services said: "Hounslow was hit hard by the pandemic due to the impact on international travel and our proximity to Heathrow Airport. We needed to think of bold new ways to provide support for our local independent businesses.

"Our ambitious ShopLocal voucher, the first of its kind in the capital, did exactly that, injecting over a million pounds into the local economy. A huge boost for the borough to



Thakers, Vegetarian Soul Food, Hounslow

kickstart our recovery.

"We are very lucky in Hounslow to be the home of such a vibrant range of small independent businesses, and I want to thank every single one of them that participated in the ShopLocal voucher initiative. I gladly spent my voucher at Mr Singh's

vegetarian pizzas in Hounslow, my family love their pizzas.

Speaking about the positive boost the voucher initiative gave participating businesses, Adam Bloom, Owner of Bookcase London in Chiswick said: "I want to commend the Council on the brilliant ShopLocal voucher scheme for residents and local independent business in the area. For us it was a huge success, and the extension of the scheme until Christmas was welcomed, making a real positive impact on the whole borough."

Cllr Rajawat added: "The support doesn't end there, and the Council is continuing to provide tailored support and advice for businesses all year round, protecting the Hounslow pound and ensuring the local economy flourishes."

GETTING BUSINESSES BACK ON TRACK

The start of 2022 saw the Council expand its enterprise support programme by launching the third and largest round of the Council's Innovate and Grow business support programme.

Funded by the Government's COVID-19 Additional Restrictions Grant, the programme provided local business owners, start-ups, and budding entrepreneurs free access to a host of courses, masterclasses, grants, and one-to-one mentoring. The programme also includes an exciting start-up competition offering a business the chance to win rent-free space, in partnership with SaveTheHighStreet.org.

The free support was split into four key areas:

- Support for pre-start and start-up
- Support for small, medium, and micro businesses
- Support for our high street businesses
- Support for businesses to grow and secure new business.

Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services said: "We are delighted to be able to deliver this fantastic, free, accessible package of programmes to support our businesses most in need.

"It offers a range of support to enable businesses to innovate and grow beyond the constraints of the pandemic. The Council is committed to supporting our businesses,

helping to re-establish confidence within the local economy, while protecting jobs for local people."

Maggi Smit from America and Canada As You Like It – a tour operator based in Chiswick said:

"We have had a really tough time during the pandemic with almost no business during the last two years. We have been so fortunate to receive funding support

from Hounslow Council both in the form of grants and extremely useful business training through CPG Executive Consulting. It has enabled us to get through these difficulties and come out the other side."

Find out more about the full Innovate and Grow programme by visiting www.hounslow.gov.uk/businessrecoveryprogramme



Aaron Durkin, Director of Verdict Bakery

HOUNSLOW MEANS BUSINESS

The Hounslow business community reunited for the annual Hounslow Festival of Business, hosted by the Hounslow Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by the Council.

The landmark event kickstarts the business year while celebrating the resilience of the local economy and diverse business community within the borough.

Cllr Steve Curran, Leader of Hounslow Council and Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, who attended the event, met with local businesses to hear more about how they overcame the challenges of the pandemic, alongside ambitious plans for growth.

Cllr Steve Curran said: "The Hounslow Festival of Business is a significant date in the calendar and serves as a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with business owners and potential partners.

"Businesses are the heartbeat of our communities, providing essential services and jobs for the borough."

Sally Smith, Chief Operating Officer of Hounslow Chamber of Commerce, said: "The Festival of Business is a premier business event. This year had an international feel with representation from a number of Iraqi companies and Chambers of Commerce, the Lebanese Chamber of Commerce and Embassy, and also Issy les Moulineaux, a suburb of Paris, twinned with Hounslow."

To find out more visit www.hounslowchamber.org.uk



HIGH STREET QUARTER DEVELOPMENT

A new chapter for Hounslow

The exciting new High Street Quarter development, built by Barratt London, will help transform the town centre. Alongside delivering new affordable homes, the town centre will soon be home to the best Bollywood cinema outside of India when the 10-screen cinema opens on the site. The development will also bring a range of shops, restaurants, and a public square.



BELL SQUARE

World class outdoor performances

Bell Square is an exciting free outdoor arts space in the heart of Hounslow, where visitors can watch some of the best outdoor performers in the world. The square regularly hosts a variety of interactive community performances and art installations.



MARKET PLACE HOUNSLOW

Street food from across the globe

One of the newest additions to the High Street, Marketplace Hounslow is a vibrant hub for street food lovers and small independent local businesses. Experience food from all over the world in a comfortable vibrant dining area or pop-in and grab food on the go.



THE ARTS CENTRE

Connect with the community through art and performance

Located in Hounslow's Treaty Centre, the Arts Centre provides visitors with a wonderful cultural experience.

You can experience a range of theatrical performances and foreign language cinema screenings as well as get involved with dance and fitness classes to get the body moving.

The Centre is also home to a community gallery for local artists of all styles to exhibit their work for free and share their masterpieces with the rest of the community. www.theartscentre.co.uk

Happy Hounslow

The town of Hounslow lies in the middle of the borough.

With the largest town centre, Hounslow is filled with stunning parks, vibrant global cuisines, and specialist independent retailers. There is plenty of fun on offer for all ages in Hounslow.

HOUNSLOW HEATH

An ancient landscape, hidden amongst modern suburbs

The original Hounslow Heath once stretched right across the borough. What remains of the Heath is now an important nature reserve site, home to a range of wildlife.

With a rich history, it was once the staging point for Charles I's troops during the English Civil War, a favoured spot for highwaymen and a training ground for the cavalry based at Hounslow Barracks which closed last year.

A popular place for walking, cycling, picnicking and wildlife watching, the west of the Heath features the River Crane which can be followed north or south to other

green spaces in the borough and beyond. A series of markers take you through the history of the Heath as you hike.

Hounslow Heath Conservation Volunteers hold regular clean-up and habitat protection sessions and are always looking for more participants.

HANG

An ancient landscape, hidden amongst modern suburbs

If you're looking to keep fit, meet new people and challenge yourself, then the recently opened climbing centre "HANG" might be for you.

Whatever your level of climbing ability, there is something to suit your needs in an environment that fuses together world-class climbing, a café and co-work/hang out areas alongside some beautifully curated music playlists. Find out more by visiting www.hang.co.uk

JUNGLE VIP

Exciting big adventures for children

For children looking for big adventures, the Jungle VIP indoor soft play centre is the ideal place to monkey around. A family-run children's indoor soft play located in the heart of Hounslow town centre, it is a haven for both children and parents or carers. Jungle VIP now offers a newly extended play frame, with slides, tunnels, monkey bars, zip wire, trampoline pods, punching bags, ride-ons and an interactive games floor. The centre is an ideal location for birthday parties or to keep the children entertained in the school holidays. www.jungle-vip.co.uk



HOUSING PLEDGE
 Secure 5,000 affordable homes by 2022
 3,335 new homes secured since 2018

Welcome to our Spring edition of Housing news

We want to see increased participation from tenants and leaseholders, which will in turn help us tackle inequalities and build community wealth. We hope to launch our final engagement strategy by the summer and will be in touch with residents soon to gain their feedback.

The pandemic has made it difficult to organise the communications and meetings we normally have with social housing tenants, leaseholders and resident groups.

Going forward, we want to give our social housing residents more opportunities to get involved in the services we provide. We believe a collaborative approach involving residents, Council staff and other stakeholders will empower tenants and leaseholders to help us shape how our services are designed and delivered, monitored, evaluated and governed.

There is a lot of work and consultation ahead, but we hope to launch our final engagement strategy by the summer so watch this space.

Cllr Lily Bath,
 Cabinet Member for Housing and Social Inclusion



Artist's impression of the Orchard Road redevelopment

HOUNSLOW'S GREEN DEVELOPMENTS

After declaring a climate emergency in summer 2019, we're working hard to reduce direct carbon emissions across Hounslow. Zero-carbon housing is essential to reducing our carbon footprint, especially as we continue to deliver new homes at pace. So far, we have secured 1,200 new homes against our commitment to build 1,000 new Council homes by 2022.

The development of five zero-carbon homes at Orchard Road in Brentford will be used as a blue-print for all future Council developments. Starting this spring, the scheme will be car-free with triple glazed windows, a waste-water heat

recovery system, an air source heat pump to provide hot water and heating, and solar panels on the roof.

Other green schemes in the borough include Rose Gardens in Feltham and Brentford Block D, which boast 42 and 96 new council homes respectively. Homes at both developments will be completely electric with no gas boilers. Another development of 13 new homes at Frampton Road, Hounslow is also being built to zero-carbon standards, and the Clements Court scheme will offer cycle storage units to encourage tenants to cycle more.



Artist's impression of the Clements Court redevelopment

ARE YOU LOOKING TO SELL YOUR HOUNSLOW HOME?

We have recently agreed a deal with the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, to help us and our housing company Lampton Investment 360 purchase 555 homes across the borough.

Hounslow will receive £38.7m from the Mayor's new Property Purchase Scheme, which gives London boroughs and council-owned housing companies the ability to purchase homes from the open market. This includes purchasing back former council homes that have been sold through the Government's Right to Buy programme, as well as homes in Hounslow that meet our brief. These homes will then be used to house local families who are on the housing register, homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Twenty family-sized homes will be ringfenced for Afghan nationals who have been granted leave to resettle in the UK. A further 25 low-cost, social rented homes will be allocated specifically to provide first homes for young people leaving care.

Cllr Steve Curran, said: "We've already met our target of delivering 1,000 new council homes and this funding means we can provide more council homes for those that need them."

If you are interested in selling your council property please contact Jack Slater from Madison Brook on 020 3946 6400 or email Jack.Slater@madisonbrook.com.

KEEPING IT LOCAL: BUILDING HOMES AND EMPLOYING OUR OWN

NEW HOMES IN BRENTFORD

One of the latest schemes to be delivered under our joint venture with Lampton Property360 and EcoWorld London, the development offers two-, three- and four-bedroom homes at Council rent. The development benefits from cycle parking spaces, a play area, landscaped gardens and a private open space for residents. The homes also feature electric vehicle chargers and solar panels, with some houses including a nesting box for birds and bats.

Cllr Steve Curran meeting a resident of the development



Lily Powell working at the Burlington Close housing site with developer Wates

Last year there was a 168% increase in the number of people without work in Hounslow. We are not only committed to building new council homes, but also investing in local people. We work in partnership with developers to create job opportunities and boost our post-pandemic recovery and growth. This includes:

- Creating apprenticeships and hiring young people to teach them construction skills.
- Employing 15 Hounslow residents to work on our new-build sites.
- Organising workshops in schools to educate young people.
- Providing work experience so young people can gain the skills needed to enter the world of work.

As part of the Kickstart scheme, developer Wates is offering work opportunities for local people. One apprentice, Lily Powell, enjoyed a six-month paid contract at the Burlington Close housing site as office support, and now has a full-time permanent role with the company.

Lily said: "I first became interested in construction after hearing about the industry from my uncle who worked at Wates. I knew nothing about construction, but I'm keen to learn more and progress in my role. I'm happy to say I have now been offered a permanent placement at Wates. I love my job; the people, the atmosphere and learning more about construction."

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

SPRING IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN: WHAT TO SOW NOW AND HOW

25 March 2022, 10.30 - 11.30am

Would you like to grow your own vegetables but don't know where to start? Come and see how we do it in our Community Vegetable Garden here at Gunnersbury Park. Price: £5 (includes cost of compost, pot and seeds to take home).

DINO KINGDOM

1 April to 18 April 2022, 10am - 7pm

From 1 April to 18 April, the creators of the award-winning Lightopia bring Dino Kingdom to London for the first time ever!

Take a journey through time into the land of the dinosaurs, and prepare to be blown away as the future meets the past!! Dino Kingdom brings you roaring and moving Dinosaurs, with state-of-the-art 3D and AR technology and photo-realistic animatronics that you can get up close to!

Price: £12+

TANKO BUSHI - JAPANESE FOLK DANCE FOR 50+

1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 June 2022, 11am - 12pm

Tanko Bushi is a traditional folk dance performed during the Japanese festival Matsuri.

Come and join us each week where you will learn different dance steps and routines in the beautiful surroundings of Gunnersbury Park.

You can perform these sitting or standing.

Price: £5

For more info visit www.visitgunnersbury.org/whats-on

CHISWICK HOUSE AND GARDENS GIFFORDS CIRCUS iCARPA!

Thursday 16 June, 5pm to Monday 27 June, 1pm

Giffords Circus is a magical vintage village green circus that tours England from the first days of spring to the first glimpse of winter. Giffords is much more than a circus, it's a magical nod to old fashioned circus with a glamorous twist.

Adults: From £20
Children: From £10

Feltham Arts

FELTHAM ARTISTS CLUB

First Thursday of the month excluding August, 10am-12 noon until Thursday Jul 7, 2022

A friendly group of amateur artists of mixed ages and abilities who paint in all mediums.

The Hub, Feltham Library, The Centre, Feltham TW13 4G
Call Chris for more details on 020 8751 2045.

www.felthamarts.org

HOGARTH HOUSE

WILLIAM HOGARTH'S ANIMALS

29 March, 12 noon - 5pm

No need to book, just turn up on the day

This special exhibition explores William Hogarth's relationship with animals through his work as an artist and in his personal life. In his work, William Hogarth depicted all aspects of animal life in Georgian Britain, from the reality of widespread animal cruelty to the beloved family pet. Price: FREE

Chiswick Cheese Market

20 March, 9.30am - 3pm

Old Market Place, Chiswick High Road, London W4

Every month we have over 100 DIFFERENT CHEESES, plus chutney, crackers, cheeseboards and many more cheese related goodies. It's easy being cheesey in Chiswick

www.chiswickcheesemarket.uk

KEEP ACTIVE

WOMEN'S EURO 2022 LEGACY SESSIONS

Women's Adult Recreational Football
Free sessions at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub. Contact lsmith@brentfordfcst.com

Just Play Women's Football
Fun, Free, Just Play Football for women of all abilities at Indian Gymkhana, Osterley. Contact indian.gymkhanafc@gmail.com

Street 45 Soccer

Women's Football session at Heston Leisure Centre, Wednesday afternoons. Contact sophia@streetsoccerlondon.org

Wildcats Football 5-11 years

For girls 5-11yrs at Nishcam School, Beavers Community Primary School and Springwest Academy. Visit www.thefa.com/wildcats

FA Referee Course for Women 14yrs+

Discounted courses available visit www.middlesexfa.com

FA Playmaker Course

Provides skills, guidance and tips so anyone can help create safe, fun, and inclusive football visit www.middlesexfa.com

Women's Recreational Football

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

For more information on WEUROs visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/womens-euro2022

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.

THE GLL SPORT FOUNDATION

Applications are open to young people in Hounslow until end of February 2022. Find out more a www.gllsportfoundation.org

OUTDOOR GYMS

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

SPORTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 14-19YRS

Satellite Club activities for young people inc. cycling, running, netball, dance, disability football and athletics. For more information visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/sports-clubs

OURPARKS COUCH TO!

Free at-home exercises visit www.ourparks.org.uk/content/couch-to-programmes. Why not try Couch to Banghra or Couch to Afrobrics too!

TENNIS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Free tennis sessions every Wednesday 5-6pm at Hanworth Air Park Leisure

Centre. Contact Jonathan. Barbour@lampton360.com. For more; cycling, running, netball, dance, disability football, and athletics visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/sports-clubs

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

WE ARE UNDEFEATABLE

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

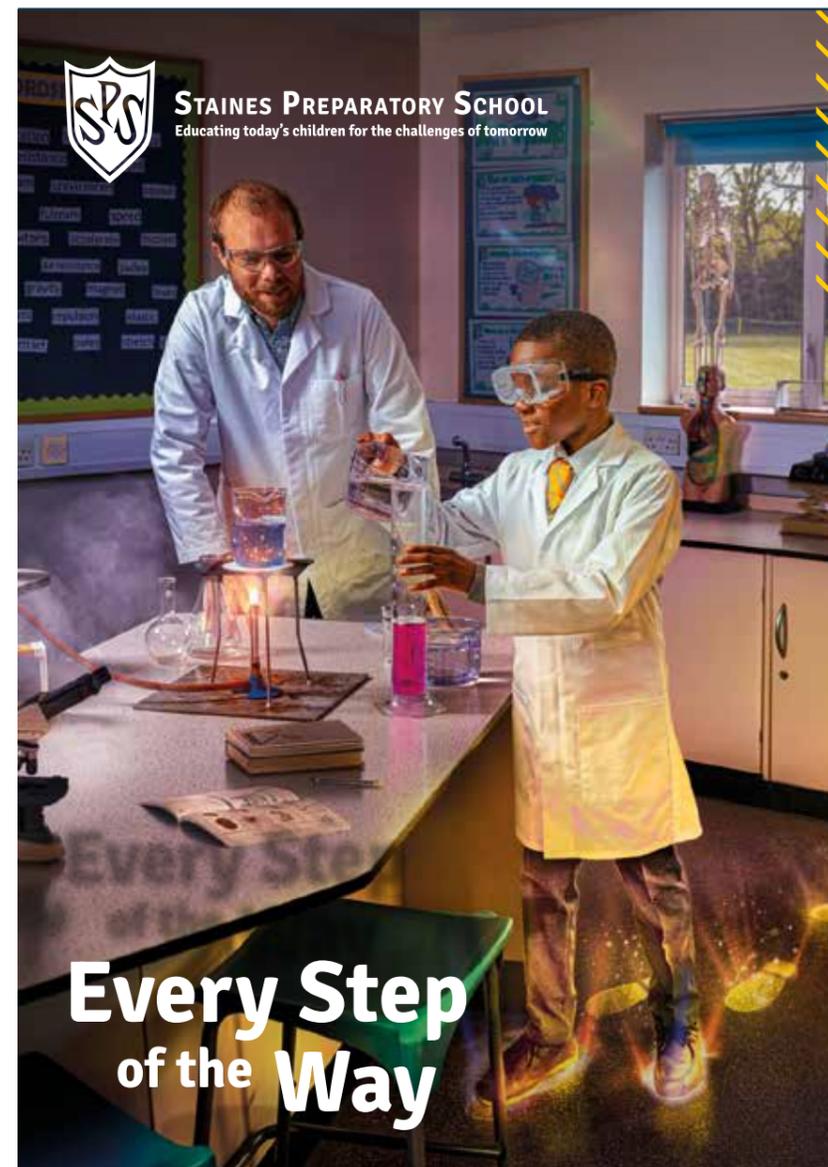
TRY BEFORE YOU BIKE

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

OLDER ADULTS SPORTS 60YRS+

Tuesday 12.30pm - 4pm, FREE social sports at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub.

Visit www.better.org.uk/gunnersbury-park



Every Step
of the Way

Join us for our Open Days

Thursday 19th May | 5 to 7pm

Saturday 21st May | 10am to 12 noon

📍 Staines Preparatory School, 3 Gresham Road, Staines-Upon-Thames, TW18 2BT



DO YOU KNOW HOW TO RECYCLE YOUR TEXTILES?

Textiles are the second most polluting industry in the world, and there are approximately 18,000 tonnes of textiles disposed of as rubbish across West London each year or 300,000 tonnes nationally! Help us to keep textiles out of the rubbish bin.

For clothes, shoes or textiles you cannot repair, sell or donate, we offer a weekly collection of these items for kerbside properties. All you need to do is place these items in a clearly marked plastic bag alongside your recycling boxes for collection. Please visit our website for more information on what we can and cannot collect.

For residents in flats, or people looking to book a convenient home collection

of unwanted textiles you can book this through TR Aid. TR Aid is a charity working to stop clothes from being thrown away, more information on their service and how to book a collection can be found here www.traid.org.uk/clothes-donations



Bank Holiday recycling and waste collections

Please check your usual collection day and the revised collection day below:

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 15 April (Good Friday)	Normal collection will take place
Monday 18 April (Easter Monday)	Tuesday 19 April
Tuesday 19 April	Wednesday 20 April
Wednesday 20 April	Thursday 21 April
Thursday 21 April	Friday 22 April
Friday 22 April	Saturday 23 April

WASTE PLEDGE:
Make recycling easier, improve bulky waste collections and reduce fly-tipping

The current service ends on 31 March, so sign up now to make sure you continue to receive the service

Sign up for Hounslow residents'

Garden waste

collection service **NOW**
www.hounslow.gov.uk/gardenwaste

for a convenient, **low-cost** way to dispose of your cuttings



Service operates - 1 April to 31 March



HOUNSLOW PHOTO COMPETITION

Thank you to everyone who entered our first ever photo competition, which was a phenomenal success!

We know that Hounslow is an outstanding place to live and work and residents certainly delivered. You showcased the best of the borough by sending us an array of beautiful pictures from parks and high streets to iconic landmarks and town centres.

Unfortunately we can't include every picture that was sent to us but here are some highlights of those that were sent into us. We will be running another photo competition in the coming months so watch this space!

One particular image that was sent to us was from local art teacher, Mr Giddings, who teaches at Kingsley Academy and asked his students to enter the competition.

The picture was taken by **Fathima Anas, Year 8, who wanted to celebrate the parks Hounslow has to offer.**

Mr Giddings commented: "Many people don't have the benefit of a garden, and Fathima wanted to showcase the availability of green spaces that Hounslow has to offer. This is of great benefit to Hounslow residents well-being; particularly recently because of Covid and the impact it has had on the community."

Fathima Anas, Year 8 pupil





OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE MAYOR OF HOUNSLOW

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

Cllr 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.

Welcoming in the New Year

The mayor attended the annual New Year's Day Parade in Westminster, representing Hounslow in the London Boroughs Mayors' congregation.

The event welcomed in 2022 and featured acts from across the capital.



Raising money with love

The Mayor hosted a special Valentine's Day raffle to raise money for his chosen charity of the year, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Families Association (SSAFA).

Well done to five local winners who received fantastic prizes including an afternoon tea and chocolate hamper.



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

Citizenship Ceremony

The Mayor attended the Hounslow Citizenship Ceremony, alongside Deputy Lieutenant, Mr Paul Kennerley.

The ceremony took place at Hounslow House and 40 residents were presented with citizenship.



It's behind you!

The Mayor attended the outstanding Gala Performance of Peter Pan at the Hounslow Arts Centre, featuring some of the best talent from across the borough.



Mayor Bishnu Gurung's JustGiving Page

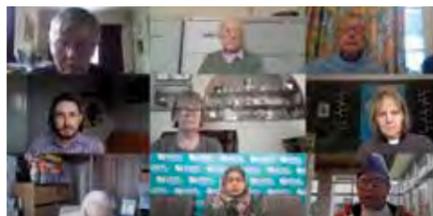
Marking The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Mayor visited St Mary's Church in Bedfont to plant a special tree, marking The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The tree was donated by the Bedfont and Hatton Royal British Legion Branch.



Holocaust Memorial Day

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day the Mayor hosted a special online event. He was joined by pupils from Lampton School and representatives of Hounslow faith groups to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and of more recent genocides.



Nepal Gala Dinner

The Mayor attended a special gala dinner welcoming the Prime Minister of Nepal, Sher Bahadur Deuba, to the UK.



BEDFONT

Adriana Gheorghe Vacancy Raghwinder Sidhu

BRENTFORD

Guy Lambert Melvin Collins Corinna Smart
Cabinet Member Chair of Planning Committee
Highways, Recycling and Trading Companies

CHISWICK HOMEFIELDS

Patrick Barr Gerald McGregor John Todd
Leader of the Opposition

CHISWICK RIVERSIDE

Michael Denniss Gabriella Giles Sam Hearn

CRANFORD

Sukhbir Dhaliwal Khulique Malik Devina Ram

FELTHAM NORTH

Aqsa Ahmed Komal Chaudri Kuldeep Tak

FELTHAM WEST

Hina Mir Alan Mitchell Mohammed Umair
Deputy Mayor Chair of Bedfont, Feltham and Hanworth Area Forum

HANWORTH

Candice Atterton Samia Chaudhary Richard Foote
Cabinet Member Cabinet Member Chair of Licensing Committee
Adults, Social Care and Health Leisure Services

HANWORTH PARK

Puneet Grewal Bishnu Gurung Hanif Khan
Mayor Cabinet Member Transport and One Hounslow

HESTON CENTRAL

Harleen Atwal Shivraj Grewal Surinder Purewal
Hear Chair of Heston and Cranford Area Forum

HESTON EAST

Kamaljit Kaur Gurmail Lal Amrit Mann

HESTON WEST

Lily Bath Balraj Sarai Shantanu Rajawat
Deputy Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Services
Housing and Social Inclusion

HOUNSLOW CENTRAL

Ajmer Grewal Pritam Grewal Nisar Malik
Chair of Central Hounslow Area Forum Cabinet Member Customer Services and Corporate Performance

HOUNSLOW HEATH

Madeeha Asim Vickram Grewal Afzaal Kiani

HOUNSLOW SOUTH

Tom Bruce Shaida Mehrban Karen Smith
Cabinet Member Education, Children and Youth Services

HOUNSLOW WEST

Bandna Chopra Sohan Singh Sumra Jagdish Sharma
Chair of Audit and Governance Committee

ISLEWORTH

Daanish Saeed Salman Shaheen Sue Sampson
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

OSTERLEY & SPRING GROVE

Unsa Chaudri Richard Eason Tony Louki
Chair of Isleworth and Brentford Area Forum

SYON

Steve Curran Theo Dennison Katherine Dunne
Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Communities and Climate Emergency
Corporate Strategy, Planning and Regeneration

TURNHAM GREEN

Joanna Biddolph Ranjit Gill Ron Mushiso
Chair of the Chiswick Area Forum

To find out which ward you live in, who your councillor is and how to contact them, visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/democracy_and_elections or call 020 8583 2265

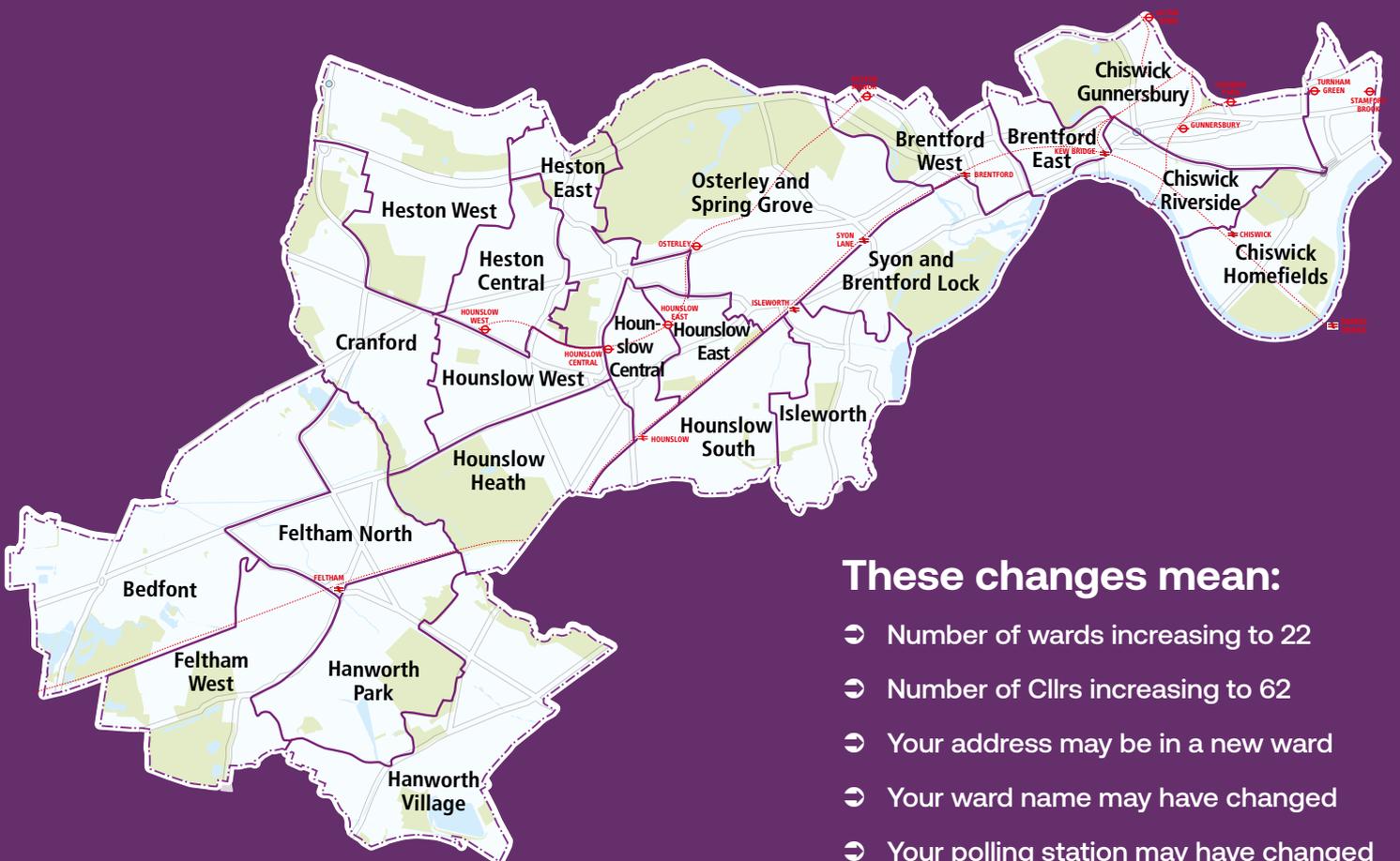
Key

- Labour
- Conservative
- Cabinet
- Independent

IMPORTANT CHANGES AT YOUR NEXT LOCAL ELECTION

Hounslow's ward boundaries have changed

**THE NEXT LOCAL ELECTION IN HOUNSLOW WILL
BE HELD ON THURSDAY 5 MAY 2022**



These changes mean:

- ➔ Number of wards increasing to 22
- ➔ Number of Cllrs increasing to 62
- ➔ Your address may be in a new ward
- ➔ Your ward name may have changed
- ➔ Your polling station may have changed

To find out which electoral ward your address falls in please visit:
www.hounslow.gov.uk/polling-station-finder

