

HOUNSLOW matters

Spring 2023

Community and Council news from around the borough



HER MAJESTY VISITS BRENTFORD

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Delivering what Matters*
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YOUR **PERFECT** *venue*

FELTHAM LODGE

Perfect for intimate weddings, the Garden Room in Feltham Lodge is an exquisite setting for marriages and civil partnerships.

High ceilings, stunning chandeliers and beautiful high back chairs, the room accesses the veranda and garden - a picturesque location to capture photographs of your special day.

To book your ceremony, or if you would like to visit us, please contact:

registeroffice@hounslow.gov.uk



Feltham Lodge is a beautifully restored Victorian house, which is home to the Hounslow District Registration Service.

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Welcome to the latest edition of Hounslow Matters – Spring 2023



Dear Resident,

As a Council, each Spring we must ensure we have the finances in place to deliver all our vital services and priorities for the year ahead. As you can imagine setting the budget has been particularly difficult this time around because of soaring inflation and rising demand, which is presenting a real challenge for us.

We know residents are struggling too, especially those on lower incomes, which is why we have again put in place one of the most generous Council Tax Support Schemes in London. Over the Winter we have also provided a comprehensive package of support for those struggling with the rising cost of living, and we remain committed to continuing to look after those who need our help most.

I am pleased to say that because we have managed our finances effectively, we have again been able to set a balanced and responsible budget, which will allow us to deliver on the things that really make a difference in our communities. You can find out more in our budget briefing on pages 15 – 18.

One such issue that sadly continues to impact communities across London is violence against women and girls. We are determined to tackle harmful attitudes towards women and are working with local voluntary organisations to support those who have experienced abuse. Several of those partners joined us this month to celebrate International Women's

Day with a special event where people could hear more about the work happening locally to champion issues affecting women.

Indeed, Hounslow's voluntary sector continues to be at the very heart of our work. I am delighted, therefore, that we have been able to award more than £270,000 in grants to local charities and voluntary groups which provide all kinds of services and activities, from services for carers and employment support for young people, to music and cultural projects.

On the subject of volunteering, our fantastic project to restore and reopen the wonderful Boston Manor House would have been impossible without our dedicated team of volunteers. Last month I was incredibly privileged to show Her Majesty the Queen Consort around the 400-year-old property and it was a most fitting location for a royal visit, as volunteering is the official theme for the King's Coronation in May.

Boston Manor House is set within a beautiful park, which itself has benefitted from significant investment over the last year. It's part of our commitment to ensuring that Hounslow has some of the best parks in London and as we come into the warmer months, I do hope you'll join me in enjoying our lovely green spaces.

Cllr Shantanu Rajawat (Shan)
Leader of Hounslow Council

Niall Bolger, CEO of Hounslow Council
meets her Majesty the Queen Consort

Her Majesty also visited the new Jimmy Choo London Fashion Academy based in the buildings adjacent to Boston Manor House. The academy, in partnership with Hounslow Council, is one of the newest emerging universities in the country dedicated to fashion. The Queen Consort met with school children from Our Lady and St John's RC primary school in Brentford who were designing shoes – along with students and local artisans cutting, sewing and designing clothes.

Stephen Smith, the Founder and Director of the Jimmy Choo Academy and local resident, said:

"My five-year-old son has grown up in Boston Manor Park and we would stare at Boston Manor House every time we visited. I often thought it would be a great place to have a creative space so when Hounslow Council announced they were wishing to support the local artisan community it was an immediate meeting of minds."

The restoration project was made possible through funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, London Borough of Hounslow, Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund, Historic England, Historic Houses Foundation, Wolfson Foundation, Pilgrim Trust and Heritage of London Trust.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN CONSORT MAKES HISTORIC VISIT TO BRENTFORD

Her Majesty The Queen Consort visited Boston Manor House in Brentford and saw first-hand how the building has been restored to reflect its momentous 400-year history. The Jacobean House, which is run by Hounslow Council with the help of local volunteers, will be free to visit when it opens later this Spring.

Her Majesty viewed some of the refurbished rooms and met with architects, craftspeople, apprentices and volunteers who played an integral role in restoring the house to its former glory.

The Queen Mother visited the house in 1963 and received a ceremonial key. During her visit, the Queen Consort was presented with a symbolic key by the Leader of Hounslow Council in the House's State Drawing Room.



Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Leader of Hounslow Council, said:

"It was an absolute honour to have Her Majesty visit Brentford and see how Hounslow is enshrining heritage and culture into its identity. This project would not have been possible without the highly skilled craftspeople, staff at Hounslow Council, volunteers and funders who have made history come alive in this iconic house.

"Yet beyond the restoration we have cemented an important legacy: we will provide placements, apprenticeships and internships for young people under 25 – within the heritage sector - until at least 2025."

And with volunteering being a central theme at the King's Coronation, Hounslow Council aims to engage with 150 local volunteers over the next two years.



BUILDING BRIDGES

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Hounslow Council marked the official opening of the new Dukes Meadows footbridge in Chiswick earlier this year.

The installation, which provides walkers with safer, more convenient access to the scenic Thames Path, removes the need for a long detour to rejoin the path after Barnes Bridge.

The new walkway also rejuvenated a previously disconnected stretch of the Thames Path, whilst improving the route, accessibility and safety for pushchairs, mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

A ceremony which included pupils from Chiswick School performing in a steel pan band and a flash mob dance took place to mark the opening of the footbridge. The Mayor of Hounslow, Cllr Raghwinder Siddhu formally opened the bridge alongside Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Leader of Hounslow Council.

Associates from the Council's construction partner, Knights Brown, were also present to celebrate the completion of the innovative two-year engineering feat.

Dukes Meadows Footbridge will provide numerous benefits for the local community, including enhanced access to leisure facilities and new views of the Dukes Hollow Nature Reserve.

Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Leader of the Council, said: "Pedestrians using the Thames Path in Dukes Meadows usually find themselves facing a long detour that takes them away from the Thames through a narrow tunnel which passes under the railway.



L-R: Cllr Emsley with Cllr Rajawat, Cllr Todd, Cllr Dunne, Cllr Shaheen and Cllr Lambert



Pupils from Chiswick School performed with their steel band to celebrate the opening of the bridge

"This bridge will now offer a fantastic uninterrupted route along the River Thames.

"This major construction milestone and engineering triumph is testament to years of close partnerships between Hounslow Council, our construction partner Knights Brown and the local community - under the leadership of my predecessor Steve Curran. We also received tremendous cross-party support for this project from local ward member Cllr John Todd.

"We're proud to offer residents a more inclusive and accessible route to the Thames Path and look forward to welcoming even more visitors to Dukes Meadows."

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Hounslow Council has set out how it will work together with partners to make Hounslow a safer place for all women and girls to live, work, study and visit.

ensuring that victims/survivors' voices and experiences are heard."

The Women and Girls Network, who provide a specialist service for victims of sexual violence via their helpline, said: "Here at Women and Girls Network (WGN), we provide free and confidential

The plan to end violence against women and girls is formed of three key priorities: ensuring victims, survivors and children receive the right help; working together to stop violence against women and girls; and taking action against perpetrators.

To demonstrate its commitment to engaging with men and boys to end violence against women and girls, Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Leader of the Council, was nominated as a White Ribbon ambassador, by the Cabinet.



Cabinet members wearing the white ribbon in support of ending violence against women and girls



Sexual Violence and Abuse Awareness Week pop up at West Middlesex Hospital

abhorrent and I would like us all to speak up to prevent violence."

During Sexual Violence and Abuse awareness week, 6-12 February 2023, the Council held two pop up events at West Middlesex Hospital and the Heart of Hounslow. The Hounslow Domestic and Sexual Violence Outreach Service (HDSVOS) were joined by partners such as GALOP, Southall Black Sisters, Women and Girls Network and Victim Support.

Victim Support, which provides a specialist service at the West Middlesex Hospital for victims/survivors, said: "This week is particularly important to us as we believe that greater awareness of domestic abuse, and in specific sexual abuse, is vital in

emotional support for survivors of sexual violence in all London boroughs via our freephone helpline and web chat.

"The helpline service is for women aged 14 and over who self-identify as victims of any form of sexual violence at any time in their lives."

Anyone living in Hounslow experiencing domestic and sexual violence or other forms of violence against women and girls can get in touch with The Hounslow One Stop Shop for free, confidential advice or information, on 07810 031 780 (Monday to Friday 9-5pm).

If you are in immediate danger, please call 999.

 Cllr Ajmer Grewal, Cabinet Member for Safety, said: "We are very pleased to have Cllr Rajawat as our White Ribbon ambassador. Over the next three years, we will implement the White Ribbon action plan to ensure long-term change.

"Violence against women and girls is

Feltham's history celebrated

Back in 2020, the Council commissioned Feltham Arts to create a public mosaic artwork on the wall behind the Feltham Green war memorial.

Working closely with the Friends of Feltham Green, and local artist Susie John, the community voted for the best design – 'The History of Feltham's Name' – with local people having the chance to create the mosaics.

Consisting of 26 mosaic mullein flower heads, the mural represents the origin of Feltham's name in the Middle Ages, and its association with the old English plant name the Great Mullein.

Angela Parton, Chair of Friends of Feltham Green said: "It was great that so many local people shared their views, and I'm really pleased that the final design depicts the natural world and refers to Feltham's history. This means the mosaic, situated in the heart of the town centre, will genuinely represent Feltham and be unique to us for years to come."

Throughout the project, local contractors were commissioned to complete the work, ensuring that the whole process remained local to the borough.

With the mural now becoming a focal point in the borough, residents are encouraged to head down to Feltham Green and capture that all-important photo.

This initiative was part of the Feltham Green Masterplan works and funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy.



POETRY IN YOUR POCKET

Jeremy Vine was among a mix of WB Yeats enthusiasts and Councillors at an event to launch a new digital app celebrating one of the foremost figures of 20th century literature.

Those attending at Bedford Park in Chiswick were treated to a reading by the broadcaster and local resident. Bedford Park was where Yeats lived with his family during two periods in the late 1800's. Vine also demonstrated how the smartphone and QR codes worked to access information about Yeats, before leading attendees on the local trail that includes the poet's former home.



Singer Bob Geldof has spoken about the importance the area had on Yeats' work and was among the campaigners who successfully lobbied for a sculpture to be erected in Bedford Park, partly supported by Hounslow Council's Thriving Communities fund.

He said: "Bedford Park is where the national poet understood what it was to be impoverished, alien, exiled and gave rise to the greatest poetry of the 20th century."

The smartphone trail is linked to the beautiful art installation that was funded via the Thriving Communities Fund as part of the Local Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

www.wbyeatsbedfordpark.com



Local celebrities join Cllr Rajawat at Rainbow Junction (Photo: Anna Kunst)

past year during Pride 2022, and in the development of a new Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion strategy.

The Council has also supported WLQP's work on wellbeing and social connection through Thriving Communities funding.

Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Leader of Hounslow Council, commented: "Hounslow is a borough where everyone is welcome regardless of sexual orientation or identity. WLQP have grown from a small group of friends to a borough wide organisation of more than 5,000 members in under a year; a clear indication of the need for our LGBT+ community to have a voice, recognition, and support."

Aubrey Crawley, founder of WLQP commented: "We are delighted to continue a successful association with the Council and celebrate these important landmarks in such a public way."

"WLQP has also recently worked with Brentford Football Club, as part of its support of Football vs Homophobia's month of action, with skills sessions for the LGBT+ community and further activity before a home game against Crystal Palace."

CEMENTING SUPPORT FOR LGBT+ COMMUNITY

Hounslow Council has installed a Rainbow Junction in Chiswick High Road, consisting of four separate crossings in the colours of the progress Pride flag.

Rainbow Junction, where Chiswick High Road meets Annandale Road and Turnham Green Terrace, was revealed at

the start of both LGBT+ History month and Football vs Homophobia month of action and is a vivid demonstration of the Council's commitment to the rights of the borough's LGBT+ community.

The idea was the brainchild of West London Queer Project (WLQP), who the Council has worked with over the

Second generation Holocaust survivor shares story

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2023, the Council invited second generation Holocaust survivor Gabriel Stein to share his mother Marie Stein's survivor testimony with students, community groups and councillors at West Thames College.



Gabriel Stein sharing his mother's survivor testimony at West Thames College

Born in Łódź in western Poland in 1929, Marie was just 10 years old when the Second World War broke out. She lost her childhood forever and was subjected to Nazi persecution.

Holocaust Memorial Day provides a time for the whole borough to reflect and remember the victims of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution, and subsequent genocides. It is vital as a community we never forget these atrocities and ensure hatred is never left unchecked in our society. Sharing stories and teaching the next generation about the Holocaust is vital to keeping the memory alive.

To read Marie's story in full visit: www.generation2generation.org.uk

ULEZ EXPANSION

Hounslow residents and businesses are being encouraged to prepare for the Mayor of London's expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to cover outer London from 29 August.

Londoners receiving certain means-tested benefits and non-means-tested disability benefits can apply for grants of up to £2,000. Disabled people who want to scrap or retrofit a non-compliant wheelchair-accessible vehicle will be able to apply for grants of £5,000 to reflect the higher cost of these vehicles. The scheme also includes an option to opt for two bus and tram season tickets.

To find out if you are eligible, visit: tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/scrappage-schemes



Brentford FC Women's First Team

Levelling the playing field

Hounslow Council joined forces with Brentford FC Women's First Team to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March.

This year's theme was to '#EmbraceEquity' which has been selected to highlight the importance of collective activism, through challenging gender stereotypes, calling out discrimination, drawing attention to bias and seeking out inclusion.

Molly Holmes, Brentford FC Women's First Team captain, said: "I started at the Club when I was 17 and I have been able to witness the phenomenal growth of women's football. It is such an amazing opportunity with the girls and women

coming in and the great atmosphere where there is no judgement, and knowing we are there to be heard and counted. International Women's Day is crucial to highlight how far we have come and also an opportunity to inspire the next generation."

The Council also hosted an event at Hounslow House for third sector community groups and residents with representatives from across the borough who came together to discuss topics including gender equality in violence against women and girls prevention, feminism in the South Asian communities and gender equity in the workplace and campaigns.

JUDGE DUMPS TOUGH VERDICT ON FLY TIPPER

Mr Crowth from Surrey was recently ordered to carry out 250 hours of unpaid community service and fined £4,181 for fly-tipping. Caught by Hounslow Council's Neighbourhood Enforcement Team through its CCTV infrastructure he was seen fly-tipping garden and business waste from a vehicle on Church Road in Hounslow.

A top priority for the Council is a cleaner Hounslow with the aim of reducing fly-tipping by 25%. From April to December 2022, there were just over 14,000 fly-tipping incidents reported to Hounslow Highways, a decrease of 23% compared to the previous year.

Recently Sabeel Khan, Head of Highways PFI at Hounslow Council, featured in the

BBC's Defenders documentary on how the Council is successfully clamping down on fly-tipping in the borough.



Sabeel Khan, Head of Highways PFI being interviewed for the BBC's Defenders documentary

NO TIME TO WASTE

A new campaign to encourage residents to recycle more and waste less has been launched by Hounslow Council.

Made in partnership with real people living throughout the borough, the 'No Time to Waste' campaign is supported with promotional material including video content and strong imagery.

With the cost of living crisis a prominent issue, the campaign aims to continue educating residents on both the environmental and cost-saving benefits of putting less waste in household rubbish and using the dedicated recycling bins.



Cllr Guy Lambert, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Operational Services said: "While our borough's recycling rates

are improving all the time, they are still a long way from being the best. We are an ambitious Council and there's still a lot more we can do.

"We're here to work with residents to reduce the amount we waste, and increase the amount of stuff we reuse and recycle – this protects our environment by lowering our communal carbon footprint.

"Let's work together to waste less food and recycle more materials. It's not hard and it saves both residents and the Council money, and helps the environment as we target zero carbon in 2030."

To start making a difference, visit www.notime-towaste.co.uk

THRIVE AND DIRECT — TARGETED FUNDING FOR HOUNSLOW

Hounslow Council has awarded over £270,000 to 14 local voluntary and community groups in round two of its Thriving Communities funding, which offers financial support to projects and activities run by the borough's charities, voluntary and community groups.



Kim from the Sewing Club and local resident Lela Matai

The funding has been allocated in support of an innovative mix of projects, which includes investment in youth services, visiting support for the borough's visually impaired community, an intergenerational music making group and a nurturing space for young women.

Furthermore, the funding aims to help reduce isolation and strengthen social connections, increase independence and opportunity, and support residents with their mental health.

Emelia Biskowska, Community Manager at Heston FC added: "We are particularly grateful for this funding, as across England and Wales, there has been a 70% decline in this type of support.

"Heston football club is a place for all. We aim to build a sustainable club which is the voice for the local

community. It's vital that services that support young people are prioritised in this way. Thanks to Hounslow Council, we are now able to be able to invest in this hugely important area."



Cllr Shivraj Grewal, Cabinet Member for communities and equalities said: "We have a wonderful mix of

voluntary and community groups in our borough and our Thriving Communities funding helps them deliver projects that improve the lives of our residents, for example through a new youth service at Heston Football Club.

"Over 750 of these types of youth services have closed across the UK since 2011 due to austerity measures. Our funding is targeted and based on local need in line with our wider strategy to create a safer, thriving, healthier, and greener borough for all."

A HEALTHIER HOUNSLOW by strengthening social connections

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND: Home Visiting Support (£25,000)

Reaching vulnerable people with visual impairment to give them support to reduce isolation, increase independence and improve mental wellbeing.

FAMILY LIVES: Energise Families (£24,000)

Helping inactive/isolated families form better, healthier, happier relationships and connect to their community through fun and sustainable activities, working with trained family befrienders.

CREATIVE AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES: Black, Minority, Ethnic, Refugee Outreach Service (£24,290)

A project to support vulnerable and isolated residents and housing tenants. Will offer support via home visits and/or in community spaces.

INTEGRATED NEUROLOGICAL SERVICES: INS Hubs Hounslow (£22,800)

Reaching out to engage adults with neurological conditions and carers to access dedicated support, enabling stronger social and community connections.

THE POSITIVE MOVEMENT PROJECT: Access Support (£21,260)

To provide mental health support to Hounslow residents not currently accessing treatment, using creativity and physical activity with pastoral care.

CAPTURE MINDS: Ivybridge Filmmaking (£15,582)

Reducing the Not in Education and Employment (NEET) rate amongst residents aged between 18-25 with free filmmaking training, volunteering and employment opportunities.

RIANA DEVELOPMENT NETWORK: Connect and Thrive-Riana Community Hub (£12,457)

To develop transformative social connections through building capabilities for people to live as independently and for as long as possible.

INTERGENERATIONAL MUSIC MAKING: Move and Groove (£11,575)

An intergenerational project using a fusion of music and movement to help the most inactive people be more active while improving mental health and wellbeing.

A GREENER HOUNSLOW

by supporting community food projects and the circular economy

FELTHAM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION: Sewing Club (£24,714)

Teach local people new sewing skills, while providing the opportunity to reengage with fellow residents, and combat loneliness and isolation.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH: Eco Garden and Clothes Repair Cafe Workshops (£8,585)

To resource and run community workshops in gardening/food growing and clothes repair, teaching skills for sustainability and improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

A THRIVING HOUNSLOW

by supporting young people through employability and skills

C-CHANGE WEST LONDON: A Thriving Hounslow-Create Your Future (£25,000)

To inspire, educate and encourage young people aged 13 to 25 years old into filmmaking and community volunteering.

HESTON FC: Youth Club / Hub (£24,372)

Providing a safe and supportive youth club/hub to encourage community involvement, social cohesion and successful transitions to adulthood.

A LIVEABLE HOUNSLOW

by building resilience for Hounslow Housing tenants

RUILS INDEPENDENT LIVING: Family Matters (£9,172)

Family Matters is an outcome-focused support service for the families of disabled children and young people in Hounslow.

A SAFER HOUNSLOW

by keeping young people safe

PERFECTLY IMPERFECT: Girls Connected (£24,975)

A nurturing space for young women to learn about healthy relationships and the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including mindfulness.

"The process has been fantastic as it has helped us connect with locals, offering them a defined career path towards achieving a nursing qualification."

Alfred Uzochukwu
Pastoral Support and Facilitator
for the Healthcare Support
Worker Programme (HCSW)

NHS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Hounslow Council's Work Hounslow team has successfully partnered with social enterprise Career Camp to help residents secure interviews for roles at West Middlesex Hospital in Isleworth.

With over 10,000 NHS vacancies in the capital, the project is taking the initiative in trying to secure jobs with local people in Hounslow. Short-listed residents are invited to an NHS Healthcare Camp, hosted at West Thames College and at the end of their course, taken into nearby West Middlesex to immerse themselves in the work environment.

This proactive model was originally developed through local Hounslow Jobcentre community funding and recently endorsed by Seema Malhotra, local MP for Feltham and Heston, where many of the successful candidates have come from.

Ed Baker, founder of Career Camp said: "We are proud to have developed a ground-breaking new skills training programme in partnership with Hounslow Council (Skills Escalator), West Middlesex Hospital and Hounslow Jobcentre.

"NHS Healthcare Camp' helps residents to learn directly from NHS practitioners and gain first-hand skills and insights -

supported by a series of qualifications that raise their knowledge and work-readiness.

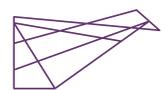
Hounslow Jobcentre's Partnership Manager, Jaswant Lall, also worked with Ed Baker, on the vacancies at West Middlesex Hospital, and commented:

"Hounslow Jobcentre Work Coaches were able to explain the programme to customers who were looking to get into work in the care sector and the NHS.

"Jobcentre staff set out the training on offer and referred people to where they could find out more, including the employment opportunities available on completion of the programme."

Candidates are principally offered clinical Health Care Assistant (HCA) roles - leading towards a career in nursing.

There are currently around 9,500 people claiming benefits in Hounslow, and this sector-based work academy model is at the vanguard of providing local jobs for local people through positive word of mouth recruitment.



WORKHOUNSLOW

CENSUS 2021 FACTSHEET

The Census happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. The Office for National Statistics has processed the answers from all the Census questionnaires. The data has been aggregated so that we can see the picture for the London Borough of Hounslow as a whole, in the form of the factsheet below.



103,000 households



288,200 residents:
19% aged 0-14 years;
69% aged 15-64;
12% aged 65+
The average age is 36 years



60,500 schoolchildren and students (aged five and over) in full-time education



68% of residents identify with at least one UK national identity



105,800 residents identify as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh



20,800 residents identify as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African



13,500 residents identify through the mixed or multiple ethnic group



3,140 residents aged 16 and over identify as gay or lesbian



2,750 residents aged 16 and over identify as bisexual



1,300 residents identify with a sex different to the sex registered at birth, but gave no specific identity



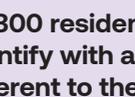
17% of households have no members with English as their main language, but 0.8% of the borough speak no English



29% of people in Hounslow hold a non-UK passport



The most common religion in Hounslow is Christianity, 38% of population



The top five languages (other than English):
Panjabi, Polish,
Romanian, Urdu and
Nepalese



33% of households do not have access to or own a car or van
23% of households have access to or own two or more cars or vans



27,760 residents are employed in a professional occupation, the most common type in Hounslow



33% of residents aged 16 and over in employment work mainly at or from home



19% of residents have no qualifications.
42% of residents have level 4 or higher qualifications

For more detailed information about Hounslow and the 2021 Census, visit the Hounslow Data Hub: stats.hounslow.gov.uk

MAKE SURE YOU ARE READY TO *VOTE WITH PHOTO ID*

You now need
photo ID to
vote at a
polling station

A key change on voting at polling stations in future elections has been introduced as part of new election law last year.

When voting in person at a polling station, you will need to show an official form of photo identification (ID) to vote.

The requirement applies to all local government elections, Parliamentary by-elections and recall petitions from 4 May 2023 as well as to all Parliamentary elections after 5 October 2023. Please note that there are no scheduled council elections for the London Borough of Hounslow until May 2024.

The good news is that you probably already have a recognised form of photo ID, and expired photo ID will be accepted, so long as the photo remains a good likeness of the bearer.



ACCEPTED FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION INCLUDE:

- Passport issued by Britain, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, a state of the European Economic Area (EEA), or a Commonwealth country
- Driving licence issued by Britain, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state
- Biometric immigration document
- Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Blue Badge
- National identity card issued by an EEA state

- Older person's bus pass
- Disabled Person's bus pass
- Oyster 60+ card
- Freedom Pass

The full list of accepted identification is available on the Electoral Commission's website, along with more information about the new requirement at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

If you are registered to vote and you don't have one of the accepted forms of photo ID you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. Apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate or by completing a paper application form and sending it to Hounslow Council's Electoral Services Team. (use the gov website for this).

When you apply, you must provide a photograph either through the online application process or with a paper application which meets the following requirements:

Photograph of your head and shoulders:

- Without any covering of the head, unless worn for religious beliefs or medical reasons
- In sharp focus and clear
- Looking straight at the camera with a plain facial expression
- In colour and taken against a plain, light background
- Free from shadows and not in the reflection of windows or mirrors.

NEW DATES FOR POPULAR AREA FORUMS ANNOUNCED

Want to meet local councillors, fellow residents and local community groups to discuss issues that matter to you? New dates have been released for the Area Forums.

At many of these events it is standing room only so why not make a date in your diary and keep an eye out for further details so you can have your say. Refreshments are provided.

CENTRAL HOUNSLOW:

20 April, Timings TBC
Hounslow House

29 June, 7pm - 9pm
Venue TBC

BEDFONT, FELTHAM AND HANWORTH:

15 June, 7pm - 9pm
Venue TBC

CHISWICK:

20 June, 7pm - 9pm
Venue TBC

HESTON AND CRANFORD:

22 June, 7pm - 9pm
Venue TBC

ISLEWORTH AND BRENTFORD:

27 April, 6.30pm - 9.30pm
Venue: West-Thames College

6 July, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Venue TBC

For confirmed details please visit:
www.hounslow.gov.uk/area-forums

MINECRAFT USED TO CREATE DREAM STREETS IN FELTHAM



CLr Dunne with students from Rivers Academy West London and Hassan Kemal from the Transport Team

Pupils at Rivers Academy West London were given a chance to design their dream street through a Minecraft initiative funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Sustrans, the active travel transport charity, worked with Hounslow Council's transport team and digital engagement specialist, BlockBuilders to deliver an interactive workshop for year nine children aged 13-14.

In the initiative known as Street Builders, pupils were asked to create their dream street using Minecraft. The aim of the project was for students to get involved in designing the public realm where they live, learn about different routes into Science, Technology, Mathematics, Engineering (STEM) careers.

BlockBuilders trained Council engineers and transport planners in Minecraft skills to prepare them and be on hand with any engineering advice the children would need. They then created a street in Minecraft with all the materials required including furniture, flowerpots, play equipment, trees, plants and much more.

Sustrans London Director, James Cleeton said: "The magic combination of the

children with their Minecraft skills, energy and enthusiasm working alongside highly experienced engineers brings fresh ideas and creativity. It's a chance for the kids to show engineers what they think is important to make streets happier and healthier places. When streets work well for children, they work well for everyone."

CLr Katherine Dunne, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Environment and Transport Strategy, said: "The Minecraft Streetbuilders programme will show us what young people really want in their streets. And they will also see the huge role engineers play in shaping how our streets and towns look and feel."

For more information on school travel planning initiatives like this, get in touch at: STA@hounslow.gov.uk



A responsible budget for challenging times

Despite extraordinary financial pressures, Hounslow Council has delivered a balanced budget for the year ahead which will allow it to provide high-quality frontline services, while still delivering on its commitment to make the borough even better.

The Council estimates rising demand for services to support children with additional needs, plus social care for children and adults, will cost an additional £9million this year. That is on top of inflation, which is running at a 40-year high, and is expected to cost the Council an extra £16million.

Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Leader of the Council, said: "Managing our finances has been exceptionally challenging this year because of the grim economic picture.

Not only are we dealing with very high inflation, but the situation was made even bleaker almost overnight, as a result of the government's mini budget.

"Despite that, I am very proud that we have managed to deliver a balanced budget which will allow us to deliver the things that residents want and deserve. We remain absolutely steadfast in our commitment to making this a Healthier, Greener, Cleaner, Safer, Thriving and more Liveable place for everyone.

To avoid a budget shortfall, Council Tax will rise by 4.99%; the amount the government assumes local authorities will add to their bills this year. This includes 2% ringfenced for adult social care, a critical investment to help meet the rising costs and demand for these services.

The rise remains well-below the current rate of inflation and the Council is continuing to offer one of the most generous Council Tax Support schemes in London, along with a 'top up' of an extra £50 off bills for eligible residents.

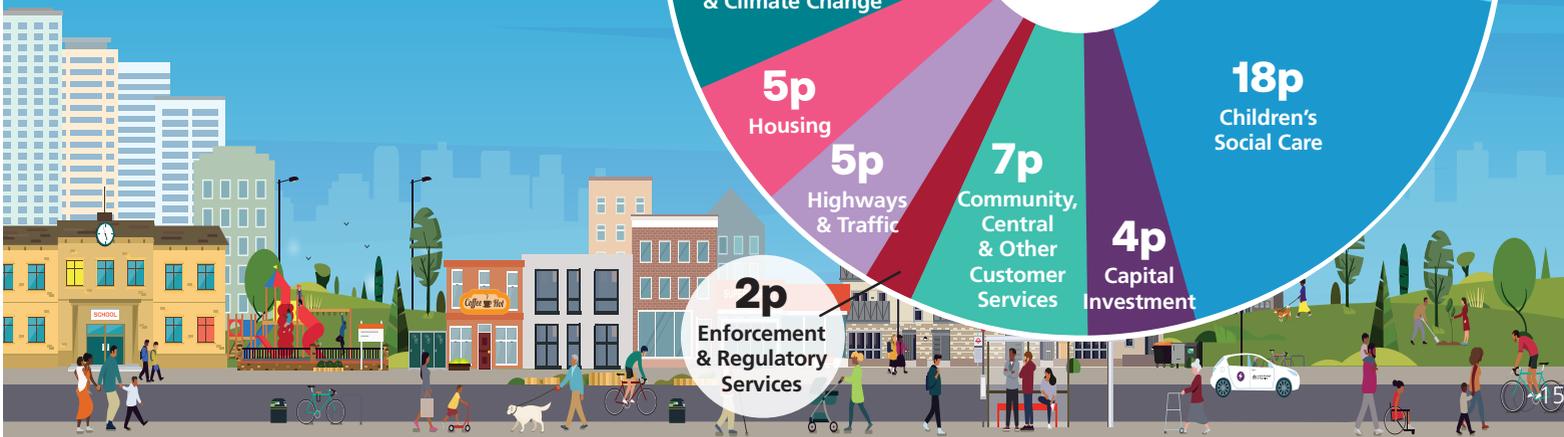
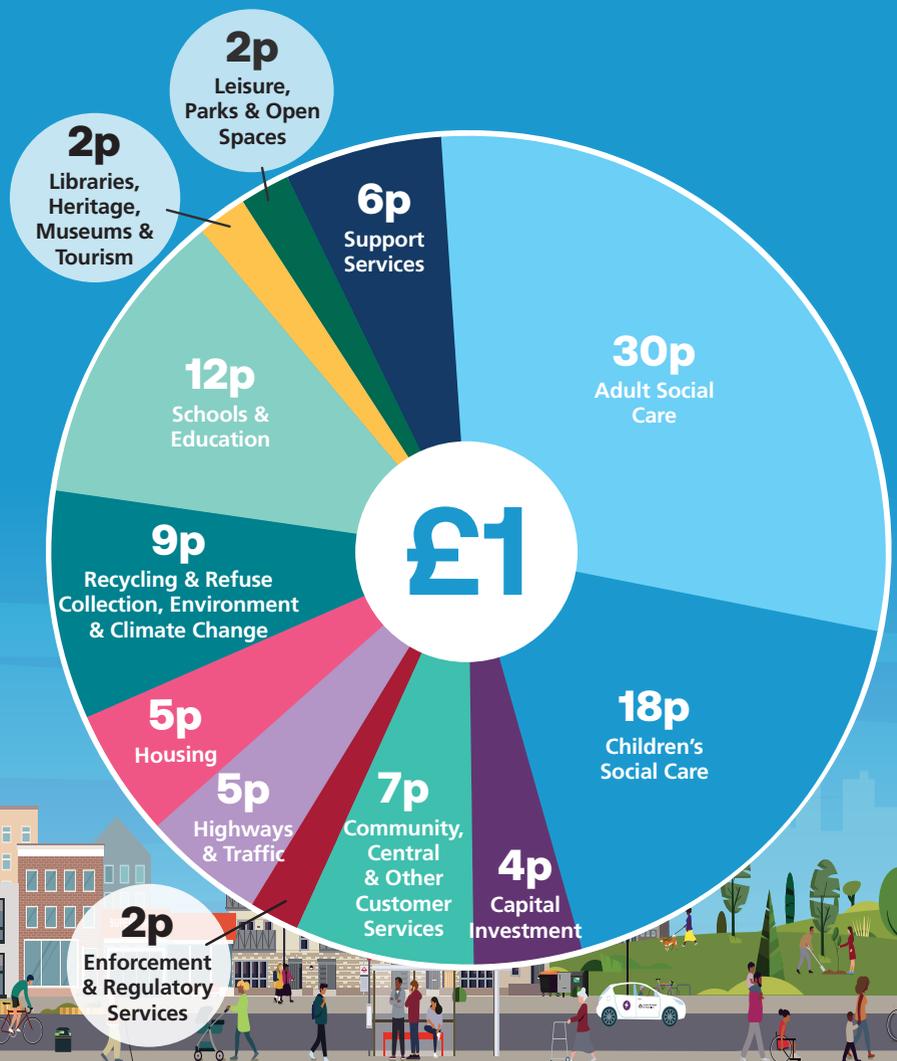
Scan here to watch the Leader setting out key Council priorities for 2023/24



Hounslow's Council Tax for 2023/24 is £27.83 per week*

This is how each £1 will be spent to deliver essential services.

*Based on a Band D home.



Delivering what matters

Last summer the Council approved Ambitious for Hounslow, its Corporate Plan for 2022-26 to improve Hounslow as a place, and the lives of residents, businesses, and communities. We're already delivering on those priorities in a variety of ways.

Making the local economy stronger and more sustainable

Hounslow is the proud home of thousands of independent businesses, but recently record inflation means the cost of doing business has soared.

The Council is committed to creating innovative ways to support businesses to navigate those challenges such as through its successful Innovate and Grow programme, which supported over 760 businesses last year.

Shankar Devarashetty, Managing Director of Oasis Accountants said: "The easily accessible support provided by the Council and its partners has given us a real boost, helping us to grow our digital skills and develop a long-term strategy to attract customers. Hounslow really is on the side of businesses and wants to help us thrive."



Shankar Devarashetty, Managing Director of Oasis Accountants, based at Chiswick Business Park

Supporting vulnerable residents

Hounslow Council supports more than 150 local voluntary groups and charities which help people in the local area with a range of needs.

In the latest round of Thriving Communities funding Middlesex Association for the Blind (MAB) was awarded £25,000 to help reach people with sight loss, providing support to reduce isolation, increase independence, and improve mental wellbeing.



Janet (71), from Feltham who has been supported by volunteer, Sheila (left) for the past eight years.

Visually impaired residents may sometimes become isolated and immobile. Their sight loss can make it harder for them to find a job or make friends, which can lead to mental health problems such as anxiety and depression.

Once matched with a support worker or one of the volunteers, residents can often form important relationships and receive support based on individual need. Many also take up the chance to visit a regular VIP Club at Hounslow's British Legion.

Early intervention to prevent violence

The Learning to Respect Programme is a domestic abuse prevention initiative unique to Hounslow.

The Council has partnered with local schools to raise awareness of domestic abuse and promote healthy relationships to children and young people. It aims to have a long-term impact on the community to prevent incidences of domestic abuse.



Norwood Green Junior School, Pastoral Lead, Stephen Hutchinson with Head teacher Mrs Priya Sehgal

Mrs P Sehgal, Headteacher, Norwood Green Junior School, said: "We're proud to be delivering the Learning to Respect programme in our school, it's vital we make these steps to help make our community safer.

"It's helping children to identify what a healthy relationship looks like and equipping them with skills to recognise the early signs of abuse."

The Council has signed up to become a White Ribbon accredited borough to demonstrate the commitment to engaging with men and boys to end violence against women and girls.

Improving the quality of our Council homes

Residents sometimes need adaptations to their homes to make it easier to live safely and independently. Last year, the Council invested over £1m to deliver more than 200 unique adaptation projects, including stairlifts and bathroom or kitchen modifications.

The Council recently transformed the bathroom of Isleworth resident Shiraz, installing a level access shower to support with his mother's disability. He said: "The new shower and bathroom is much safer for my mother to use independently which makes life easier for the entire family. The support from the Council was excellent and the work was completed quickly causing minimal disruption."

Ensuring residents live in comfortable high-quality homes that are suitable to their needs, in safe welcoming neighbourhoods, is at the heart of the Council's commitments to improve residents' lives.



Isleworth resident Shiraz Bari, recently had a level access shower installed to support his mother

Healthier and happier lives

Supported by the Council, BeeZee Bodies offers free programmes of support for families and adults to make improvements to their lifestyle and wellbeing.

Mum of three, Veena, recently took part in a healthy eating and lifestyle programme with her children. She said: "My children and I have come to appreciate the benefits of a healthy diet and being more active, we now use notes and stickers to track our progress.

"Apart from the health benefits, it's given us all a real confidence boost. Going out and meeting people has made us value how much is happening in Hounslow."



Veena and her children loved the BeeZee Bodies healthy eating and lifestyle programme

Veena enjoyed the experience so much that she wanted to help other residents make healthier life choices and has now begun working for the scheme.

Food waste recycling for flats a hit with residents

The Council has been working hard to make it easier for residents to recycle and reduce their environmental footprint. When not recycled, food waste is one of the biggest contributors to household waste and increases carbon emissions.

To help increase food waste recycling the service was recently expanded to over 24,000 flats – saving the Council over £67k in disposal costs which can be reinvested into other services.

Hounslow also became the first London borough to introduce a state-of-the-art bin washer, which allows food bins to be collected each week and replaced with clean ones.

Brentford resident and avid recycler, Lewis, said: "I was so pleased when I found out we would be able to recycle food waste from our flat. Showing my young son how to recycle and look after our planet is important to me.

"Recycling our food waste has even saved us some money by changing our shopping habits. We noticed how much food we were wasting and stopped buying foods we often threw away."



Food waste recycling has helped save Brentford resident Lewis money



Help for those who need it

With the cost of living rising, many people are struggling financially at the moment, including some households which have never had to worry about money before.



Cost of Living Marketplace event at Hounslow's Jamia Masjid

The Mayor of London Debt Bus also visited the borough to provide much-needed advice to those worried about money.

Working with voluntary organisations, the Council has also set up an extensive network of warm spaces which will be open until at least the end of March, where people can meet with others, take part in an activity and find out about the help available.

Through its innovative Community Solutions approach, the Council has supported hundreds of people over the last six months by working with voluntary groups to host Cost of Living Marketplace events in locations across the borough, including several in places of worship.

One such event was held at Hounslow's Jamia Masjid in February when the mosque in Wellington Road South, threw open its doors and encouraged anyone in the community who was looking for help to come along, have some hot food and find out about support available.



Cllr Rajawat, Leader of the Council and Gurmeet Singh Dhanoa, General Secretary of Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, with the Mayor of London Debt Bus

If you are struggling with money there is plenty of support available

Have you checked your benefits?

Many people do not claim all of the benefits to which they are entitled. You can use our benefits calculator anonymously, any time, to find out whether you might be entitled to additional help, including Council Tax support as well as other benefits.

Visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/benefits-calculator and enter a few details about your circumstances to see what you are entitled to.



Extra help for those on Council Tax Support

People eligible for Council Tax Support receive a discount on their Council Tax bill. This year everyone on Council Tax Support will have an extra £50 taken off their bill. Those owing less than £50 will have their bill reduced to zero. Please note there is no cash alternative for those who do not pay Council Tax.

To check whether you might benefit from the Council Tax Support scheme please visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/counciltax or call 020 8583 4242.

Other sources of support

If you are finding things very hard and need extra help you might be able to benefit from a Household Support Grant.

There is also a range of help available to families on lower incomes, such as free school meals and school uniform grants.

For more information about all the support available to help people locally during the cost of living crisis, visit: www.housing.gov.uk/costofliving



LET'S CLEAR THE AIR

Residents are being encouraged to get on board with a new campaign to protect people's health by taking small but important actions to improve our air quality.



The quality of the air we breathe can have a big impact on our health and wellbeing.

Air pollution, which is made up of tiny particles in the atmosphere, can be very damaging.

It can enter our lungs, causing respiratory problems and the smaller particles can enter our bloodstream.

The most prevalent form of air pollution comes from the chemical nitrogen dioxide, which is produced by combustion engines and industrial sources and can cause lung and heart problems.

In 2021, Hounslow Council committed £1.2m to improving air quality and increasing monitoring throughout the borough.

Currently there are six monitoring stations that track both nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter, and a network of over

100 diffusion tubes that track nitrogen dioxide in the borough. Additionally, the authority is also investing in a new air quality sensor network that will provide real-time information on pollution levels in the borough.

Schools in Hounslow can take advantage of air quality audits with funding available to introduce measures to reduce pollution.



Hounslow Council air quality monitoring equipment in Chiswick

Working closely with Transport for London, the Council is encouraging more parents to use cleaner methods of transport for the school run including walking, scooting and cycling.



Cllr Katherine Dunne, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Environment and Transport Strategy, said:

“Cleaning the air in Hounslow to protect ourselves, our children and future generations is something we all must have a part in. The simplest forms of behaviour change, such as walking or cycling more, can have a big effect. There are steps everyone can take to help clean the air and by working together we can make a real difference.”

“We have also introduced initiatives such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and School Streets, which encourage people to consider healthier alternatives to the car.”

HERE ARE SOME SIMPLE IDEAS TO HELP US CLEAR THE AIR:

→ **Walk the school run** - Driving the children to school greatly impacts the quality of life in Hounslow. It clogs up the roads, particularly outside schools at peak traffic times. It's also a major contributing factor towards air pollution levels in our borough.

→ **Don't be idle** - Switch your engine off while you're waiting in the car. Keeping your engine running is called idling and is bad for the environment. A stationary car with its engine running produces twice as much pollution as a moving one.

→ **Don't use wood burners or log fires** - Some research shows wood burners and open fires can produce more air pollution than a lorry. If you have to use an open fire do it sparingly and limit the amount of wood you burn. Always buy ready-to-burn fuel. Wet wood and bagged coal are two of the worst forms of fuel for air pollution.

→ **Travel to work wisely** - Commuting to work in the car greatly impacts air quality across Hounslow and throughout London. Walking, cycling and public transport are healthy alternatives to driving a car.

Business owner Mala Sarna with colleague for the launch of cervical cancer screening campaign



BE A *Screening* Star

Hounslow Council is working with borough businesses to share a life-saving message about cervical cancer screening.

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women - nine women a day are diagnosed with the disease in the UK. It is also one of the most preventable forms of cancer.

All women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 64, will be invited for a test through a letter from their GP.

The test is discreet and takes no longer than five minutes. Yet it could detect signs of the disease before it happens.

The Council's Public Health Team is working with nail bars and beauty salons across the borough, which will be displaying eye-catching posters, to get the messages out about how important testing is.



Cllr Chaudhary with business owner Mala Sarna

Mala Sarna, who owns Mala's Hair and Beauty Lounge in Hounslow, is one of those business-owners supporting the cause. She said: "We are happy to support the Council on this campaign. It's important that we get the message out to women in our borough about how important these screening tests are. Now, everyone who comes into our salon will see the posters and be able to find out more about it."

www.jostrust.org.uk/information/cervical-screening/what-is-cervical-screening

THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF VAPING

Health officials with Hounslow Council are sending a message to the borough's young people about the risks of vaping.

Vapes or e-cigarettes can be very effective tools if you're trying to quit normal cigarettes. However, the message to young people is clear – if you don't smoke, don't vape.

NHS England says that the full extent of the health risks posed by vaping and e-cigarettes, particularly to young people, is still not yet known.

While they contain fewer harmful chemicals than traditional cigarettes, the vast majority contain nicotine, which is addictive.

Recently, Trading Standards Officers in Hounslow seized more than 37,000 counterfeit vapes, some of which had misleading information about the amount of nicotine they contained. The vapes, which had a street value of nearly £400,000, were prevented from being sold in Hounslow.

GET READY FOR HEALTHY HOUNSLOW

Thanks to a new partnership between Hounslow Council and a range of healthy lifestyle services, residents will have more opportunities to eat well, quit smoking and be more active.

Since 2016, health and wellbeing services in the borough have been provided under the One You Hounslow name. From April, Healthy Hounslow will be the new name for these services, providing expert support for residents who want to make changes to their lifestyles.



- ✔ **MoreLife** will deliver sessions to support people who want to stop smoking, classes in healthy cooking and how to become more active
- ✔ **Lampton Leisure** will provide exercise on referral sessions and a wide range of physical activities
- ✔ **BeeZee Bodies** will offer healthy eating and weight management support
- ✔ **Feltham and Bedfont Primary Care Network** will proactively tackle cardio-vascular disease by bringing NHS Health checks, health coaching and more to parts of the borough where access to healthcare is a challenge.



Cllr Samia Chaudhary, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health Integration said: "The One You Hounslow service has been well-used and has helped many people to live healthier lives so they can enjoy the things they love. The Healthy Hounslow service will build on this success and support even more of our residents."

The new service goes live in April, so watch this space.

DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE FIND YOUR SAFE SPACE

Hounslow Council and its partners are working to ensure that anyone who is experiencing a crisis has somewhere to turn to for help, with a range of support available for anyone in the borough who feels their situation is desperate.

Operated by the mental health charity Mind in partnership with the Council, Safe Space is a new helpline that is available for anyone aged 18 and over between 11am and 11pm every day.

The Council has recently launched a new suicide prevention page on its

website which signposts people to where they can get help.

While all age groups and genders are at risk, current statistics show that, nationally, middle-aged men have the highest rates of suicide. Statistics also show that middle-aged men are the least likely to seek help with mental health issues.

The Safe Space helpline is 020 3475 5185 or visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/suicide-help

HELP FOR CARERS

If you give up your time to look after a family member, friend or neighbour, then it's time to take advantage of a new service designed just for you.

Hounslow Council has teamed up with Harrow Carers to provide a lifeline for people in our borough who care for someone on an unpaid basis.

Whether it's a parent with dementia, an adult child with a learning disability or a friend with a drug and alcohol dependency.

The free service provides information and guidance on issues, including support with benefits and blue badge applications, support to access free counselling and employment opportunities, and advice on managing stress and improving sleep.

Jane from Hounslow went to Harrow Carers to get support with form filling. She got a Blue Badge approved for her mum using the service. Jane said: "I couldn't have done it without your guidance, great having that second pair of eyes to look over the form."

Bill and Pam, 70 from Feltham couldn't leave the house. They needed help to fill in a benefits application. Donna visited them in the comfort of their home and completed an attendance allowance form, taking the burden off their shoulders.

Harrow Carers is an independent charity that has been helping to improve the quality of life for carers since 1996. The friendly team can help with tasks such as filling in forms and how to find your way through the social care system.

The service is available from Monday to Friday, between 10am and 2pm. Call: 020 8868 5224 or email: admin@harrowcarers.org

BETTER HOMES FOR COUNCIL TENANTS

In January 2023, Hounslow Council gave the green light to its new, £210 million, six-year programme of investment in council estates.

The Council is committed to making sure tenants' homes are not just safe but are of high-quality and decent to live in with modern and efficient kitchens, bathrooms and heating systems.

The new programme represents an investment of £16,000 per council home, which will allow the replacement of 500 kitchens per year, upgrade to new, more secure, door entry systems and replacement of old and worn-out windows on properties.

There are many other benefits to the programme too including the renovation of green areas on estates, improving the energy efficiency of homes and reducing carbon emissions.



Beavers Lane Estate Play Area transformed with new equipment and landscaping

Cllr Sue Sampson, Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Homelessness, said:

“The Council is committed to ensuring that it delivers the best possible service to tenants and improves living conditions in all council properties. Although there have been significant estate improvements, there is more work still to do. Particularly to improve the energy efficiency performance and carbon cost of council homes.”



Cllr Sampson visits Ivybridge Estate with new Estate Improvement Monitors

IMPROVING OUR COUNCIL ESTATES

A group of residents, who have recently taken up their new roles as Estate Improvement Monitors (EIM), will play an active role in shaping improvements to their neighbourhood. The initiative is part of the Council's wider strategy to empower residents to be involved in shaping the spaces and places that matter to them.

Alongside Cllr Sue Sampson, Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Homelessness, they visited estates in December and had the chance to share their experiences of taking up the role and why they wanted to get involved.

Part of being a EIM is carrying out spot checks, identifying issues like fence repairs and defective communal lights, but also to put forward ideas for improvement projects such as transforming underused spaces for community use.

The group felt becoming an EIM not only empowered them, but also helped with increasing their physical activity, better mental health, motivation to meet people, and a new sense of purpose.

One of the EIM's said: "I took up estate inspections so I could learn the different

estates across the borough and to understand the staff who work daily to bring the same standards to all residents."



Cllr Sue Sampson said: "Last year, the Council pledged to invest £300 million in improving the quality of its council estates and creating opportunities for local people to be involved in decision making.

"With 170 estates in Hounslow, plus smaller blocks, we absolutely want to work closely with our tenants, so we invest in the things that matter most and prioritise projects that make a genuine difference to their needs.

"It's fantastic to know this initiative is not only helping improve our council estates for tenants but it's also having a positive impact physically and mentally."

There are still lots of opportunities to get involved. Training and support is provided for undertaking the role and you will receive a £25 LOVE2Shop voucher after each inspection, as a thank you.

If you would like to sign-up or find out more, email: engagement@hounslow.gov.uk

NEW COUNCIL HOMES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

A pledge to build 1,000 new Council homes by 2026 in response to the current housing crisis and reduce housing waiting lists has been approved by Hounslow Council.

Cllr Tom Bruce, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development said:

“The shortage of quality homes – at genuinely affordable rents for local people – has meant demand for Council housing has continued to increase, which is why we have once again committed to building 1,000 new high-quality homes for local people.

“As our local population grows it’s important we meet the varying needs of our residents and building 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom homes is a key part of our plans.

“By building more homes we are also reducing the pressure on our services that help to prevent homelessness.”



Recently completed development on Lancet Road

The new housebuilding delivery plan sets out how the new goal will be achieved, including ensuring all new developments are low carbon and energy efficient to help save tenants money on their energy bills.

Current projects already underway include Hanworth Park House, which will see 120 new homes built and Charlton House which will see 209 new homes.

FROM PLAYGROUNDS TO PARKS

HOW PLANNING APPLICATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOU



Cllr Bruce at Watermans Park



Watermans Park new playground

When new developments are planned in Hounslow, housing developers are obliged to make contributions towards the funding of infrastructure that will benefit the borough’s communities and residents. This can range from building step-free access at a train station to refurbishing a local playground.

Last year, Hounslow Council received over £10 million in funding to invest in projects that make a difference to communities.

Key projects to receive funding include:

- **£1 million investment** in step free access at **Isleworth station**
- **£450,000 investment in Gunnersbury’s Small Mansion and Stables Conversion** – preserving the park’s rich cultural heritage
- **£150,000 improvements in Watermans Park** – a new playground has been used by hundreds of local children
- **£200,000 investment in Feltham Green** open space, which included new play equipment, paths and fencing.



Cllr Tom Bruce, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development said:

“We want Hounslow to be a place where the local economy can thrive and local businesses can prosper. However, with that prosperity comes responsibility and it is important that we support the residents and communities that underpin everything that is great about Hounslow.

“So, whether your children are benefitting from the exciting new play equipment at Watermans Park or breathing in cleaner air from the hundreds of new trees the Council is planting, this funding really does make a tangible difference to our residents’ lives.”



HOUNSLOW HIGH STREET'S NEWEST ADDITION –

THE LOFT

The top floor of the former Debenhams store inside the Treaty Centre in Hounslow has been transformed into a multi-purpose creative hub and marketplace for entrepreneurs, traders and independent businesses to gain their first high street retail experience. Pop-in and explore what is on offer or grab a bite to eat at the café.



Jonathan Ashby-Rock, one of the Directors of The Loft Hounslow Ltd, with Cllr Rajawat and Cllr Bruce

Cllr Tom Bruce, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development, said: "We know from listening to businesses and communities that there is a lack of truly affordable space for start-ups, and yet because of the pandemic and cost of living crisis there is an increase in vacant spaces across the borough.

"We are committed to unlocking these vacant retail spaces, to create places like the Loft that enhance the local community with new retail and leisure experiences and provide a boost to the local economy."



Understanding how The Loft will also be used as a community space

Hounslow residents and businesses are entitled to discounted rates to trade until August 2023. The Loft is supported by the Mayor of London's High Streets for All Challenge Fund and Hounslow's Covid Relief Funds.

Find out more or register your interest to trade in the Loft by visiting www.thelofthounslow.co.uk



PUTTING HOUNSLOW ON THE MAP

As part of its plans to support local businesses, the Council is committed to making Hounslow a destination borough where people want to live, work and study.

Cllr Tom Bruce, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development, said: "I am proud to have grown up in Hounslow and I want other residents to have that same sense of pride. Whether it's exploring the natural beauty of Bedfont Lakes or attending the Chiswick Flower Market, Hounslow has so much to offer."



Cllr Bruce at Brentford Community Stadium

A view echoed by Brentford FC's CEO Jon Varney: "Our promotion to the Premier League has seen Brentford being elevated on a global scale.

"Yet at our heart, we remain a community club – embedded in the diverse and eclectic mix of communities across Hounslow. And, it is the fans that make Brentford come alive on matchday, helping us to create a positive, welcoming experience at our stadium. We look forward to contributing to the Council's plans to make Hounslow a destination borough."

In reality, this involves supporting Hounslow businesses thrive through initiatives like the Innovate and Grow enterprise programmes, and helping new ones start and grow in the borough. It also means attracting visitors through the www.inhounslow.com website and enabling cultural events such as Brentford's Creative Mile or the Summer of Culture.

The Council is reviewing residents' views on the Town Centre Visions and will soon be sharing a delivery plan.

Visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/regeneration or www.inhounslow.com to discover more of the borough.

ON THE PATH TO NET ZERO

Significant investment has been made by Hounslow Council into decarbonising the borough's buildings, retrofitting for better energy efficiency and lowering the emissions of its fleet since the Council declared a climate emergency in 2019.

With a commitment to achieve net zero carbon by 2030, the local authority's key successes to date include:

- Generating nearly 4,000kW renewable energy with the installation of solar panels at 48 sites
- Retrofitting 32 schools and 29 corporate buildings with decarbonisation measures
- Investing approximately £8 million to improve energy efficiency of council housing.



CLlr Katherine Dunne, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Environment and Transport Strategy, said:

"Hounslow is proud to be at the forefront of London's bold climate action and leading one of the seven climate programmes being delivered by London Councils. Our Green Economy Action Plan sets out how local authorities across the

capital can double the size of the green economy by 2030 and ensure a sustainable future for our residents and communities.

"Although we face big challenges, we are also presented with fantastic opportunities which will allow our communities and businesses to thrive – the creation of more jobs, skills and training, the growth of a greener economy, a cleaner greener environment, health and social benefits, amongst others."

The Council has outlined markers that measure its climate successes, these include:

- Planting 20,000 more trees and growing more wildflowers in our parks
- Reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2026 from council operations
- Improving our resilience to flooding
- Classifying 45% of the borough as green infrastructure
- Achieving a recycling rate of 50% by 2030
- Developing low carbon neighbourhoods
- Installing more than 2000 additional electrical vehicle charging points.

For more information on Hounslow's plans to create a greener and cleaner borough, please visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/environment

BE HOUNSLOW'S NEXT ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION

The Council is committed to empowering its local communities to help make a difference to the borough and beyond with the help and support of environmental champions. Working with other volunteers to create a greener and healthier Hounslow together, the aim is to help Hounslow on its journey to net zero.

As a key member of the proactive green community, residents will be asked to use their knowledge of local areas to become a leader for driving community change through hands-on climate action.



Umme from Cranford is an environmental champion

You'll be involved in a wide range of activities that include planting and caring for trees, beautifying Hounslow's streets, and setting up community gardens alongside other members.

For more information and details of how to join our ever-growing community, contact environmental.champion@hounslow.gov.uk or visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/environmental-champions

JOIN HOUNSLOW'S CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

The Council is passionate about supporting nature and is proud that Hounslow is one of the greenest boroughs in London.

As part of its commitment to ensuring a cleaner and greener borough for residents and visitors alike, the Council promotes and provides a comprehensive volunteering offering that helps increase biodiversity and ensures a flourishing natural environment.

The Lampton Greenspace Countryside team manages 18 countryside sites across the borough, each with an individual habitat management plan. The team hosts regular volunteering events all year round for residents to get involved with.

Events take place at Pevensey Road (Feltham), Hounslow Heath, Boston Manor Park and Bedfont Lakes. These focus on seasonal habitat activities such as vegetation maintenance and gardening to promote a greater diversity of plants.

For more information on how to join the Conservation community, contact: countryside@hounslow.gov.uk.

GROWING TO THE GYM: THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Hounslow's weekly outdoors volunteering sessions known as Green Gyms are run by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), a charity that supports communities in creating and caring for green spaces.

TCV works with the Council's Parks Team, Lampton Services Greenspace and its partners to give residents the chance to transform green spaces close to where they live for the benefit of wildlife and the environment.

Free to attend sessions take place weekly in Isleworth (as well as selected other dates across the borough). Activities include conservation tasks such as tree planting, soil enhancing and even box-making for hedgehogs, birds and bats.

Visit www.tcv.org.uk for full details of volunteering opportunities in parks across the borough.

Conserve, collaborate
and listen - A Hounslow
green gym in full flow



HELP GIVE HOUNSLOW A SPRING CLEAN

Grab your litter pickers and pack some bin bags because it's time for a spring clean.

Hounslow is once again supporting environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy's annual cleaning event, and there's still time to help give Hounslow a springtime beauty treatment.

The fortnight of cleaning activity across the country kicked off on 17 March and runs until 2 April. The message is simple: join the #BigBagChallenge and pledge to pick up as much litter as possible. Remember, even one bag of litter makes a great big difference.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Simply plan your clean-up event (as an individual or a group) and let the Keep Britain Tidy team know about how many bags you pledge to pick up. Full guidance available at www.hounslow.gov.uk/great-british-spring-clean

HELP FROM US

Once you've registered, tell us about the clean-up event you are planning by emailing cleaner.greener@hounslow.gov.uk.

The Council can provide free bags and lend you litter pickers for your event. We will also organise for your bagged waste to be collected after the clean-up.

SPREAD THE WORD

Why not let everyone know what a fantastic job you're doing?

Promote your event to other local Hounslow communities through your social channels and don't forget to tag us on Twitter (@LBofHounslow), Facebook or Instagram (hounslowcouncil), remembering to include #BigBagChallenge and #CleanerGreenerHounslow too.

Communities across Hounslow have been amazing advocates for this national event over the last few years. The Council continues to work hard to ensure a truly green and clean borough.



RESIDENTS ENSURE TREE GIVEAWAY SUCCESS

The Council's Free Trees for Hounslow initiative has proved to be a success for another year running.

Hounslow has pledged to plant 7,500 trees this year, which includes one tree planted for every child born. And it is because of the dedication from residents that canopy cover is increasing across the borough.

The Council made 1,000 trees available for residents, allotment holders and schools to order and pick up for free. Promisingly, data showed a 10% increase from the previous year's giveaway in the number of trees collected during the park collection days.



Cllr Salman Shaheen, Cabinet Member for Parking, Parks and Leisure, said: "It is wonderful that Hounslow's residents have come out in force for another year running and helped to make our green borough even greener.

"Our tree planting community grows every year, much like Hounslow's canopy cover. I'd like to thank everyone who took home a free fruit tree this planting season: you're having a direct impact on Hounslow's green transformation, and contributing to cleaner air for us all."

Planting new trees helps to mitigate the effects of climate change, encourages biodiversity, and supports all kinds of different habitats.

While almost the entire allocation of 1,000 trees were given away, any left-over trees will be distributed to orchards and local Friends groups within the community.

WANT TO JOIN A FRIENDS GROUP?

Passionate about your local open space or park? Why not join a local friends group and play a vital role in the continuing improvement of parks and open spaces.

Become a friend of the park and get involved in initiatives from fundraising and promoting activities to getting involved in community clear ups. Any help volunteers can provide contributes towards a safer, cleaner and greener borough.

Habitats and Heritage oversees this service on behalf of the Council and can be contacted to assist residents who wish to volunteer or form a group for their local park or open space.

If you're interested, please email: parks@hounslow.gov.uk or hello@habitatsandheritage.org.uk

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

www.visitgunnersbury.org/whats-on

STITCH, KNIT AND CRAFT

**14, 28 April, 12, 26 May,
9, 23 June
10.30am - 12.30pm**

Join us for our friendly fortnightly textile group – bring a project to work on, learn from others, and have a good old natter over a cuppa. £2, including refreshments. No booking required

FREE FAMILY TRAIL: EASTER BUNNY

**1 April to 16 April
Tuesday - Sunday,
10am - 4.30pm**

This Easter holiday, come along to try our fun museum trail for families.

There are a number of different bunnies hiding in the museum's gallery cases. Can you find them all? If you find them all you can hand it in at the front desk to enter our raffle to win a soft toy.

THE GREAT GUNNERSBURY EASTER CELEBRATION

**4 and 5 April
11am - 12noon, 1 - 2pm,
3 - 4pm**

IT'S EASTER! SO THAT MEANS – CHOCOLATE!

We're jumping back to the Victorian times where Lizzie the kitchen maid will guide you through how the Victorians enjoyed their chocolate. Indulge in a nice hot chocolate drink, make some flower decorations and play some outside games. And, of course, it would not be Easter without a choctastic egg hunt in the grounds of Gunnersbury's beautiful park. £10

LITTLE FLAMINGOS: SONGS, DANCE AND STORIES

**6 April, 5 May, 2 June
10.30 - 11.30am,
1.30 - 2.30pm**

Join us for rhymes, action songs, and interactive stories, followed by free play in our small soft play area. Tea, coffee and juice will be served.

These playful sessions are led by our volunteers and inspired by the flamingos that used to live here at Gunnersbury.

Children £3 each, adults go free

WEDDING FAYRE

30 April, 11am - 3.30pm

Join us at Gunnersbury Park Museum for a Wedding Fayre.

Be inspired by some of the

best wedding suppliers in the business.

Complimentary glass of fizz for the first 50 guests.

Free

PRINTING CREATIVE CREATURES

22 April, 11am - 3pm

Try your hand at printing and see how animals can inspire art.

Take part as a family in a fun craft activity - create your own printed picture of one of the animals likely to be seen in the park. End the day by taking home your own print! £2 suggested donation

CHISWICK HOUSE AND GARDENS

chiswickhouseandgardens.org.uk/whats-on

WEDDING SHOWCASE

2 April, 11am - 4pm

If you are looking for your dream wedding venue, now is your chance to get a taste for everything that Chiswick House and Gardens can offer at our Wedding Showcase.

Come and see our venues, meet our friendly team and start picturing your wedding day in an exquisite setting. Our Weddings team and specially selected suppliers will be on hand to give you ideas and advice to create your perfect day.

EASTER QUEST

8 April, 11am - 4pm

A cracking adventure quest is coming to Chiswick House, guaranteed to get you exploring the gardens and into the Easter mood.

ROBIN HOOD: FAMILY OUTDOOR THEATRE

27 May, 2 - 4.30pm

This summer, the award-

winning company presents Robin Hood (adapted by Oliver Gray), an action-packed heist for the whole family. This fast-moving production delivers huge laughs, swashbuckling adventures, and well-deserved revenge!

Hogarth's House

www.hogarthshouse.org/events-exhibitions

EASTER BONNET WORKSHOP AND GARDEN EASTER EGG HUNT

Get ready to create your own whimsical Easter bonnet to wear on your quest to retrieve hidden Easter eggs in the Mulberry Garden at Hogarth's House!

£6 for one child, £10 for two (excluding Eventbrite fees)

The Arts Centre Hounslow

www.theartscentre.co.uk/whatson

GRACE & POISE ACADEMY - BALLET

Mondays 4pm - 8pm
(book your slots depending on age group)

Grace & Poise academy is the first Muslim ballet school offering professional high quality ballet classes. As an awarding body with a unique ballet to poetry syllabus, the academy provides ballet education with examinations and further training. It also provides a safe space for children to grow holistically and help their Islamic identity flourish! The academy operates out of school hours and in Islamic schools.

BRITISH MIXED MARTIAL ARTS (MMA)

Sundays from 12pm - 1pm

Featuring a multi-style combat system, and taught by trusted, experienced coaches, build confidence, and have the opportunity to bring competition into your life.

MMA isn't just a sport. It's a lifestyle.

Ages starting from 6+

Monthly membership is £35

ZUMBA WITH BLOSSOM!

Sundays from 3pm - 4pm

Calling all children to the dance floor!

Zumba is a fun, high-energy dance workout that incorporates music and movement from all over the world. It's a great way to stay active and healthy while having a ton of fun!

Keep Active

BETTERPOINTS

Download the free app and get going! Visit App Store or Google Play and register.

hounslow.betterpoints.uk

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Find local football sessions

groups including Wildcats, Squads Competitive and Recreation sessions.

www.find.Englandfootball.com

WILDCATS, 5 – 11 YEAR OLDS

FREE non-competitive football sessions for girls.

Various locations and all ability levels.

weetabix.co.uk/weetabix-wildcats

CHAIR-BASED EXERCISE CLASS

Community Stadium Hub, Brentford, TW8 0SB

£3 (or free if eligible). Contact: health@brentfordfcst.com

OURPARKS BITESIZE

FREE at-home exercises

www.ourparks.org.uk/content/couch-to-programmes

OURPARKS PRE AND POSTNATAL

FREE at-home exercises

www.ourparks.org.uk/content/couch-to-programmes

LONDON YOUTH GAMES

Season of sports events for young people run by Lampton Leisure. Contact: Jonathan. Barbour@lampton360.co.uk

PARKPLAY IN HOUNSLOW

Free fun games for all the family.

Osterley Park and Gunnersbury Park, every Saturday morning.

www.park-play.com/register

PARKRUN IN HOUNSLOW

Run, walk or jog your way Osterley, Gunnersbury,

Bedfont, Hanworth and Crane Park

Find your nearest www.parkrun.org.uk or junior parkrun

LET'S GO OUTSIDE AND LEARN

Programme of activities including guided nature walks.

www.lgoal.org

SENIOR SPORTS SESSIONS 60+

New programme of activities at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub

EASTER HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMPS

Between 3 and 13 April at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub

www.better.org.uk/gunnersbury-park

For lots more local events and activities, visit: www.hounslowconnect.com and www.oneyouhounslow.org

GUNNERSBURY PARK SPORTS HUB

We have something to keep the whole family active and entertained including:

- State-of-the-art gym
- Sports hall
- Fitness studios
- Floodlit 3G pitches
- Floodlit tennis courts
- Football, cricket and rugby pitches

Discover more at better.org.uk/gunnersbury-park



BETTER

EASTER OPENING HOURS

Hounslow House and some other Council offices will close at the normal time on Thursday 6 April 2023 and will re-open on Tuesday 11 April 2023.

COUNCIL SERVICES OVER THE EASTER PERIOD 2023

During this time, residents can still access the services online and via emergency numbers:

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

Please read carefully

COLLECTIONS OVER EASTER

recycling and waste

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 10 April (Easter Monday)	Tuesday 11 April
Tuesday 11 April	Wednesday 12 April
Wednesday 12 April	Thursday 13 April
Thursday 13 April	Friday 14 April
Friday 14 April	Saturday 15 April

London Borough of Hounslow

Hounslow recycles

London Borough of Hounslow

Annual Garden Waste Collection Service

Fortnightly collections from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024

£65

For residents on Council Tax Reduction

£32.50



SIGN UP NOW

www.hounslow.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Hounslow recycles



OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE MAYOR

Mayor Siddhu has been continuing his work in the borough by attending multiple community events over the past few months. Find out more about what he has been up to below.

Mayor's Charity

The Mayor has chosen Polio and Children in Need Charity (Registered Charity Number 1096394).

Polio and Children in Need Charity's mission is to provide nutritional, educational, healthcare, and vocational training support to children with polio or other neuro-muscular disorders. For those children who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, the charity has the goal of making them independent and productive citizens. It also aims to advance public education of polio and other neuro-muscular diseases.

Dukes Meadow

In January, the Mayor officially opened Dukes Meadow footbridge in Chiswick. The opening ceremony included pupils from Chiswick School performing in a steel pan band and a flash mob dance.



Recognising a local hero

The Mayor presented a special award to local resident Willow White, who saved her grandfather's life after he suffered a heart attack. Willow met with the Mayor alongside her grandfather and other family members to receive the award.



New Year's Day parade

The Mayor attended the annual New Year's Day parade alongside Feltham Arts, who represented the borough with their One Hounslow performance.



Bedfont Primary School visit

Pupils at Bedfont Primary School were chosen to design The Mayor's Christmas Card in December 2022. Amira from Falcon Class was selected as the winner and presented with a medal by the Mayor when he visited.



Charlotte House Care Home Visit

The Mayor visited Charlotte House Care Home in Isleworth to meet the team and the residents.



Lampton School students visited the Mayor in the Parlour

Students of Lampton School designed and made the Council's Mace Box out of old benches from the school under the supervision of their DT Technician – Mr Wayland Mallen.



Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The Mayor and the Deputy Lieutenant, Rosi Prescott, attended the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service presentation to Riana Development Network. This prestigious award is given to around 250 organisations across the country. Riana were nominated for the work they do with young people through their youth club and supplementary school.



If you would you like the Mayor to attend your event, please contact the Mayor's Office at mayor@hounslow.gov.uk

BEDFORD



Lily Bath
Children, Learning &
Employment



**Adesh
Farmahan**



**Raghwinder
Siddhu**

BRENTFORD EAST



**Marina
Sharma**



**Rhys
Williams**

BRENTFORD WEST



Guy Lambert
Environment, Highways
& Operational Services



**Lara
Parizotto**

CHISWICK GUNNERSBURY



**Joanna
Biddolph**



Ranjit Gill



**Ron
Mushiso**

CHISWICK HOMEFIELDS



Jack Emsley



**Gerald
McGregor**



John Todd

CHISWICK RIVERSIDE



Amy Croft



**Gabriella
Giles**



Peter Thompson
Leader of the
Opposition

CRANFORD



**Ghazala
Butt**



**Sukhbir
Dhaliwal**



**Vickram
Grewal**

FELTHAM NORTH



**Muhammad
Shakeel
Akram**



**Samina
Nagra**



Kuldeep Tak

FELTHAM WEST



**Madeeha
Asim**



Hina Mir



**Alan
Mitchell**

HANWORTH PARK



**Bishnu
Gurung**



**Farah
Kamran**

HANWORTH VILLAGE



**Richard
Foote**



Allan Joseph



**Noreen
Kaleem**

HESTON CENTRAL



**Harleen
Atwal Hear**



Shivraj Grewal
Communities & Equalities



Riaz Gull

HESTON EAST



Aqsa Ahmed



Gurmail Lal



Amrit Mann

HESTON WEST



**Emma
Siddhu**



**Karamat
Malik**



Shantanu Rajawat
Leader of the Council

HOUNSLOW CENTRAL



**Rasheed
Bhatti**



Ajmer Grewal
Safety



**Pritam
Grewal**

HOUNSLOW EAST



Junue Meah



**Daanish
Saeed**

HOUNSLOW HEATH



Samia Chaudhry
Adults & Health
Integration



Afzaal Kiani



**Farhaan
Rehman**

HOUNSLOW SOUTH



Tom Bruce
Regeneration &
Development



Sayyar Raza



Karen Smith

HOUNSLOW WEST



**Bandna
Chopra**



**Jagdish
Sharma**



**Mohammed
Umair**

ISLEWORTH



Sue Sampson
Housing Management
& Homelessness



Salman Shaheen
Parking,
Parks & Leisure



**John Stroud-
Turp**

OSTERLEY AND SPRING GROVE



**Unsa
Chaudri**



Tony Louki



**Aftab
Siddiqui**

SYON AND BRENTFORD LOCK



**Dan
Bowring**



Katherine Dunne
Deputy Leader of the Council
Climate, Environment &
Transport Strategy



Balraj Sarai

Key	
	Labour
	Conservative
	Cabinet

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 6808