News from **Chesterfield Borough Council**

Your Chesterfield

Putting our communities **first**

Don't lose your chance to vote!
Pages 4 and 5

Local youngsters help plant a greener future -
page 31

Staveley regeneration progresses -
pages 22 and 23

CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Issue 30 **Spring 2023**

Welcome ...

to the spring edition of Your Chesterfield

Councillor Tricia Gilby

A new year is once again upon us and 2023 promises to be another time of great progress and opportunity for our borough.

Our flagship development at One Waterside Place officially opened its doors – a major step forward for the £340 million Chesterfield Waterside regeneration scheme.

The impressive new building, which has become a striking new feature of the local skyline, has already drawn in new investment (see page three).

Elsewhere we're forging ahead with regeneration plans in both Chesterfield town centre and Staveley after we secured more than £45 million worth of Government funding.

This year will see the delivery of some key projects as part of the Staveley Town Deal – including the Construction Skills Hub and a new academy at Staveley Miners Welfare Football Club. Together the Town Deal projects will ensure Staveley is a place where residents and businesses can start, stay and grow (see pages 22 and 23).

Work to improve the look, feel and flow of Chesterfield town centre will also continue to move forward, following the completion of improvements on Packers Row and the start of refurbishment work at Stephenson Memorial Hall.

It's part of our multi-million pound Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield project, which will be carried out in phases over the next three years. See page 18 for more information about our plans.

These are just a few examples of how we're planning for the long term and working hard to bring new jobs and opportunities to local people.

While it's fantastic to enter the new year on such a positive footing for the future, we know the winter months have been difficult for many people, as the cost of living continues to put significant pressure on household bills.

We've supported hundreds of people to keep warm and well, as part of our work with partners to provide dozens of warm spaces across Chesterfield. These are still on hand to offer a range of help and support.

Even as we head into the warmer months, we know the tough times are not over. If you're struggling to manage your finances, please remember you're not alone. Support is available – visit our website at **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support** to find out more.

The coming year will also see the next phase of our work to tackle the climate emergency, with the adoption of our new climate change strategy and action plan.

Thanks to everyone who had their say in our consultation about these important plans, which will guide our progress to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 and lay the groundwork to achieve our goal of being a carbon neutral borough by 2050.

We've already invested significantly in this work, but we know there is much more we need to achieve to reach our aims as a borough – something which we cannot do alone, and we must all think about how we can change the way we live. You can find out more on pages six and seven.

We're also improving how we work with council tenants, with a range of changes to our services – designed to support people to live happily and healthily in their homes. See pages eight to 17 for a round-up of the changes, and how you can get involved.

Finally, in May 2023 voters across Chesterfield will go to the polls to elect their local representatives.

As well as making sure you're registered to vote, there are a number of important changes which you need to be aware of – including the new requirement to bring photo ID when you vote, and changes to some of our ward boundaries and polling stations. We've rounded up the key information on pages four and five.

I wish you a happy and healthy 2023.

Flagship development welcomes new tenants

Our flagship development at One Waterside Place has officially opened its doors and welcomed its first tenants – a major step forward for the £340 million Chesterfield Waterside regeneration scheme.

The impressive new building, which has become a striking new feature of the local skyline, features six floors of 'Grade A' office space and has already drawn in new investment to the town.

Local accountancy firm BHP moved into the building in November, followed by leading women's leisurewear business, Varley, in January.

Councillor Tricia Gilby, council leader, said: "I'm delighted to welcome these businesses to this stunning new office accommodation in the heart of Chesterfield. Our investment in this building will help stimulate the local economy by encouraging businesses to move to Chesterfield, invest in our town and create new jobs for local people. I look forward to welcoming more businesses into this building in the next year."

One Waterside Place provides bespoke office accommodation for established businesses – offering a modern, high-quality base for ambitious companies looking to grow and thrive in a central and well-connected location.

The ground floor has been designed to create a new retail space close to the railway station. The whole building has been built to a 'BREEAM Very Good' rating, meaning it boasts strong energy efficiency credentials and has been designed with accessibility at its heart.

Sitting in Basin Square, One Waterside Place is a key part of the wider Chesterfield Waterside regeneration scheme, which also includes plans for new flats, a hotel and a multi-storey car park.

This area will be landscaped around the canal basin, creating a great environment to spend time in on the edge of the town centre.

The canal basin site has been brought forward with support from the South Yorkshire Combined Authority Infrastructure Fund.

You can find out more about One Waterside Place by visiting: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/business-and-economic-growth/regeneration-and-economic-growth/chesterfield-waterside/one-waterside-place**

Councillor Tricia Gilby, council leader, and Pete Swallow, Managing Director of Bolsterstone Group Plc

Everything you need to know about the 2023 local elections

On Thursday 4 May 2023, residents in all Chesterfield council wards will go to the polls to select their representatives. Residents in Brimington and Staveley will also elect councillors to Brimington Parish Council and Staveley Town Council.

As well as a reminder of how to register to vote, there are a couple of other important changes, including our new ward boundaries and a requirement to show photo ID at the polling station, that you need to be aware of.

Casting your vote is a quick and easy – but to help you prepare, the key points are summarised below. You can find full details and links on our website:

Register to vote

You have the right to vote if you are:

18 years old or older (you can register to vote at age 16)

You are a British, other Commonwealth, Irish or other European Union citizen

You live in the Chesterfield Borough Council area

We wrote to all eligible voters in Chesterfield last autumn asking them to make sure their details are correct on the register. If you responded to this, there is no need for you to do anything now.

If you are a new resident, it's important to realise that you will have to make sure you are registered to vote at your new address. Just because you are paying Council Tax at your new address does **NOT** mean you are automatically registered to vote.

To vote on 4 May you must be registered by Monday 17 April.

You can register to vote by visiting: **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote**

You will need your National Insurance number, which you can find on official paperwork including payslips or letters about benefits or taxes. If you have lost your number, you can request a reminder through the Government website.

You can choose to use a postal vote. If you have previously registered for a postal vote then you do not need to do anything. If you wish to apply for one then you must complete and send the application form by Tuesday 18 April. You can download the application form by visiting: **www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote**

If you need any help to register to vote or apply for a postal vote, please contact our elections team on:

Or by emailing

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT

You will need **photo ID** to vote

The Government introduced new rules last year which mean all voters must now show valid photographic identification before they can cast their vote. This is an important change, so please familiarise yourself with the guidance below.

Valid forms of photographic identification include:

- Driving licenses
- Passports
- PASS cards
- Ministry of Defence identity cards
- Various concessionary travel passes
- Photocard parking permits issued as part of the Blue Badge scheme

You can find more details about these forms of identification by visiting: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/election-2023**

Expired photographic identification will also be accepted if the photograph is of a good enough likeness to confirm the identity of the holder.

If you do not have one of the accepted forms of identification then you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. To do this please visit: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/election-2023**

If you do not take valid identification to the polling station, you will not be able to vote.

Changes to borough boundaries

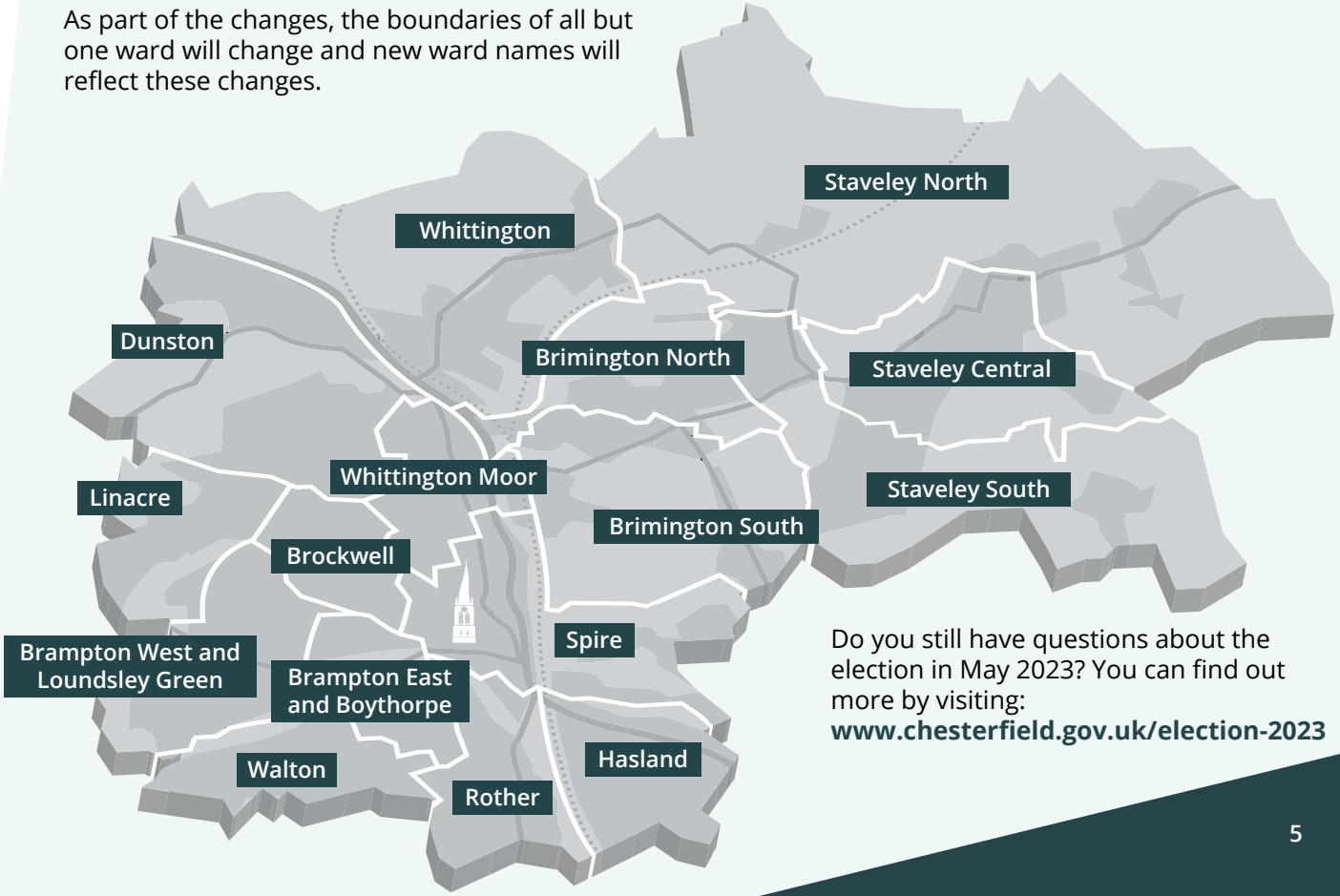
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England developed new local electoral boundaries following a review last year. These will apply for the election on 4 May 2023.

The is aim to ensure that each councillor represents the same number of electors whilst also ensuring the ward reflects community ties and identities.

As part of the changes, the boundaries of all but one ward will change and new ward names will reflect these changes.

The total number of councillors will reduce by eight and the number of wards by three. This means there will be 40 councillors in eight two-councillor wards and eight three-councillor wards.

Your polling station may have changed so please ensure you check your polling station on your poll card that will be delivered to you around the end of March.



Do you still have questions about the election in May 2023? You can find out more by visiting: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/election-2023**

Our action on Climate Change

“Climate change is the most important challenge we face not only in Chesterfield but globally. We’re working hard to do all we can to ensure we meet our targets for Chesterfield borough. The new strategy will help ensure we can focus our efforts to make the biggest carbon reduction possible.”

Cllr Amanda Serjeant, deputy leader of the council

We have a lot to look forward to in Chesterfield but the impact of climate change poses a very real threat to the future of our communities.

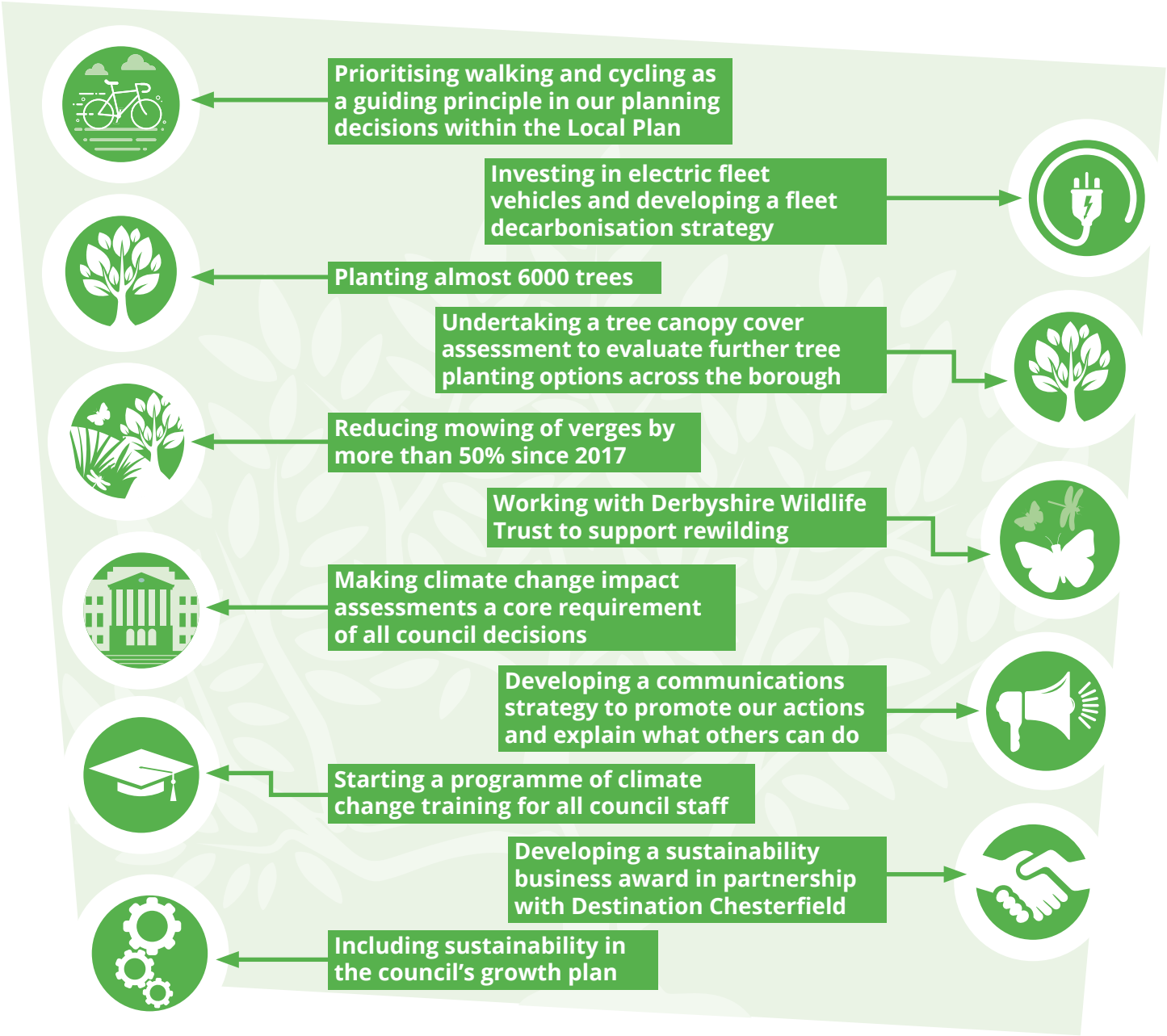
We want to protect our planet – and in turn, our borough - to ensure future generations grow up in and inherit a healthy, sustainable place to live, work and raise a family.

In 2019 the council declared a Climate Emergency and with support from members of the local community created our first Climate Change Action Plan.

We are now at the end of the first action plan and we have reduced emissions by around a third (32%) from when we declared the climate emergency in 2019 to the end of the financial year 2021/22.

Some of the highlights over the last four years include:

- **A £13.7M programme of investment in energy efficiency improvements to council homes**
- **Securing £1.5M of funding to improve the energy rating of private rented sector and privately owned homes**
- **Making sustainability and climate change a central theme of the latest Local Plan**
- **Replacing all light fittings with LED units (when they come to the end of their life) in and on council buildings**
- **Switching to a renewable energy supplier for all electricity purchases**



What's next?

Following the completion of our first action plan we have been developing a new strategy that will guide our progress to our first goal of being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 and lay the groundwork to achieve our goal of being a carbon neutral borough by 2050.

The new strategy will set key themes and ways of working across the entire council that will support the development and completion of annual goals. The strategy is due to be considered by the council's cabinet in February 2023 and will then be subject to approval by full council.

Councillor Amanda Serjeant, deputy leader of the council, said: Climate change is the most important challenge we face not only in Chesterfield but globally. We're working hard to do all we can to ensure we meet our targets for Chesterfield borough. The new strategy will help ensure we can focus our efforts to make the biggest carbon reduction possible. I want to thank everyone who took the time to feedback on this strategy in December. By working together we can make the changes needed to meet this challenge. If approved, the new strategy will be based around a number of themes including, buildings and energy use, travel, green space, land use and offsetting carbon emissions.

You can find out more about our progress to tackle climate change on our website: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/climate-change**

Tenants meet the team following reshape of housing service

“We want to make sure we can always deliver excellent customer service to you and your neighbours. That’s why we’ve recently made a number of changes to how our housing team works – with the aim of improving the services we deliver to you and your community.”

Cllr Chris Ludlow, cabinet member for housing

We’re always looking for new ways to improve the services we deliver to you and your community, and have recently made some changes to how our housing services operate.

To launch the new-look service we held three ‘meet the team’ events in January to give all tenants the opportunity to get to know the team who will be looking after their local community. It was also a chance for people to find out more about the range of services and support that we can provide.

Attendees at the events were able to find out more about the tenant engagement opportunities and how they could get involved

Our dedicated teams were on hand to answer any questions from tenants

The events were well attended, with over 100 tenants coming along to the sessions. You can find out more about the changes to our services on our website:

www.chesterfield.gov.uk/housing/reshaping-our-housing-service

If you are a council tenant and couldn't make it to one of events, you can contact the team by email at:

housingmanagement@chesterfield.gov.uk or by calling **01246 345071**.

A key part of the new-look service is the introduction of new 'area neighbourhood teams'. These teams are made up of dedicated officers who are fully committed to supporting you and your local community and will be on hand to help you with a range of issues, including:

- **Support to claim the benefits you may be entitled to**
- **Help to manage any debt you may have**
- **Support to manage your tenancy**
- **Support with anti-social behaviour**
- **Support with issues in your community, such as fly tipping**
- **Advice on your housing application and getting a property**
- **Access to our Careline service**

Councillor Chris Ludlow, cabinet member for housing, said: "We want to make sure we can always deliver excellent customer service to you and your neighbours. That's why we've recently made a number of changes to how our housing team works – with the aim of improving the services we deliver to you and your community.

"Our aim is to create a more co-ordinated approach to the management and maintenance of our 9,000 council homes to make sure we can deliver services to the standards you expect.

"The new structure will give us more opportunities to engage with you on a regular basis, giving us the chance to get a better understanding the housing needs of residents in our borough."

Largest council housing development in a generation wins award

The largest council housing development in the borough since the 1980s was crowned a winner at the Love Chesterfield awards.

The Badger Croft development, located on the site of the former Brockwell Court, saw off tough competition to win the Regeneration Award 2022.

The £4.1 million development, which was a partnership project between the council and Henry Boot Construction, has seen 21 brand new properties constructed. This marks a key milestone in our commitment to increasing the supply of affordable and accessible homes across the borough.

Councillor Chris Ludlow, cabinet member for housing, said: "We are delighted that the development has been recognised and won this award. The win really is a testament to all the hard work and dedication that has been put in by our housing team, alongside our contractor, Henry Boot Construction."

Further funding available to help residents service gas appliances

Homeowners could benefit from funding to service their gas appliances – helping to keep their homes safe and warm.

After successfully helping around 130 households service their appliances in the last year, we have been awarded a further £7,000 from Foundations Independent Living Trust, which works in partnership with the Gas Safe Charity, to provide small grants for servicing and repairs.

The funding is available to homeowners on low income and / or who have a disability, who may not otherwise be able to afford to have their gas appliances serviced.

Eligible residents can get financial help towards the cost of servicing fires, cookers and heating systems. Funding can also pay for minor repair work which is needed to enable them to continue using gas appliances in their home safely.

Eligible residents can apply for funding by calling **01246 345748** or emailing **hia@chesterfield.gov.uk.**

Find out more about the Gas Safe Charity funding scheme at: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/housing/private-property/financial-assistance/gas-safe-charity-funding-scheme**

Keeping your home free from damp and mould

With the cost of living rising, many of us are finding it difficult to heat our homes in the way we might have used to. But it's really important to try to keep your home warm to prevent further issues arising – including the risk of damp and mould.

Having damp and mould in your property can be unsightly and if left unmanaged or uncontrolled, it could damage your health and your home.

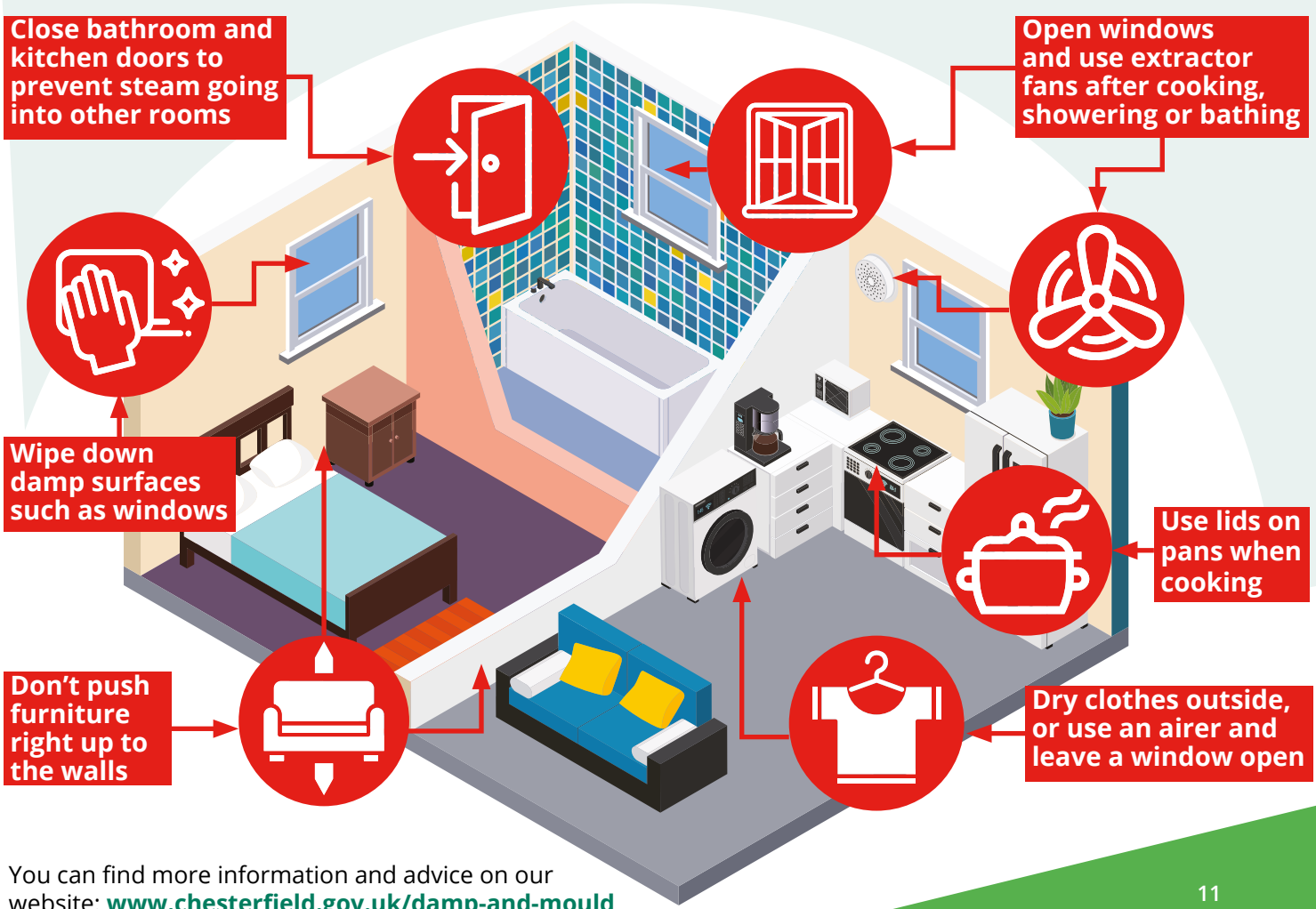
As a council, we're committed to ensuring the health and safety of our tenants and residents, and we provide a range of support and advice services to help deal with damp and mould in the home.

If you are a council tenant and need further support, you can contact the team on: **repair.requests@chesterfield.gov.uk** or **0800 587 5659** during office hours.

Our private sector housing team is responsible for ensuring that private housing conditions don't present any health and safety risks to residents and visitors – including damp and mould in the property.

The team is on hand to provide advice, help and guidance to non-council tenants, agents and landlords, to ensure that homes remain safe and well maintained. You can contact the team on: **hia@chesterfield.gov.uk** or **01246 345748.**

There are also simple steps that can be taken to reduce the risk, including preventing condensation in the home – the most common cause of damp and mould in households.



You can find more information and advice on our website: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/damp-and-mould**

Creating modern, sociable homes to boost independent living

A further 41 council homes have been refurbished – creating brighter, more easily accessible spaces designed to help residents to live independently.

“We’re really pleased to have reached this milestone and have now successfully refurbished all of our homes that are designed to help residents continue living independently, keeping to our promise of creating attractive places to live.”

Cllr Chris Ludlow, cabinet member for housing, pictured right with with Cllr Amanda Serjeant, deputy leader

Properties at Mallard Court and Leander Court in Staveley are the latest and final independent living flats to undergo a complete modernisation - and mark the completion of our £3.8 million refurbishment scheme.

Each home has benefitted from a newly renovated kitchen and lounge area, whilst bathrooms have been converted into a wet room with a level access shower.

As part of our commitment to tackling loneliness and social isolation, the effective redesign of these homes will also contribute to a positive living space for residents. Communal and shared areas, both indoors and outdoors, have been given a facelift to create brighter open spaces for residents to get together and socialise.

As part of our Climate Change Action Plan, we are committed to ensuring that our existing homes are as energy efficient as possible. The refurbishment of the flats has included new windows, roofs and energy efficient facades. Low energy lighting has also been installed in the buildings.

Councillor Chris Ludlow, cabinet member for housing, said: "We're really pleased to have reached this milestone and have now successfully refurbished all of our homes that are designed to help residents continue living independently, keeping to our promise of creating attractive places to live. We are committed to improving the quality of life for local people and a key part of our housing strategy is to make sure that our homes are of excellent quality and create a modern and desirable environment.

"By creating open spaces in these properties, it also creates a place where our residents can get together and socialise. We are committed to tackling loneliness and social isolation, so we hope to see as many residents as possible getting together."

Pat Fletcher recently moved in to Leander Court from nearby Aston Court, where she had lived for 16 years. Pat said: "I love living here, the team has done a great job with the refurbishment.

"The communal areas here are fantastic too and a great way to meet up with friends and neighbours. A group of us meet in the communal kitchen at 2pm every day. It's nice to have the patio and outdoor space that we can all enjoy and use to socialise."

The refurbishment project started in October 2017 and has since seen Markham Court, Catherine Court, Glebe Court and Brocklehurst Court all being refurbished, alongside Mallard Court and Leander Court.

The properties have been refurbished and modernised by our contractor, Fortem Solutions Ltd. as part of our commitment to investing in our housing stock.

"I love living here, the team has done a great job with the refurbishment. The communal areas here are fantastic too and a great way to meet up with friends and neighbours. A group of us meet in the communal kitchen at 2pm every day. It's nice to have the patio and outdoor space that we can all enjoy and use to socialise."

Pat Fletcher (pictured left) , Leander Court resident, with John Lofthouse

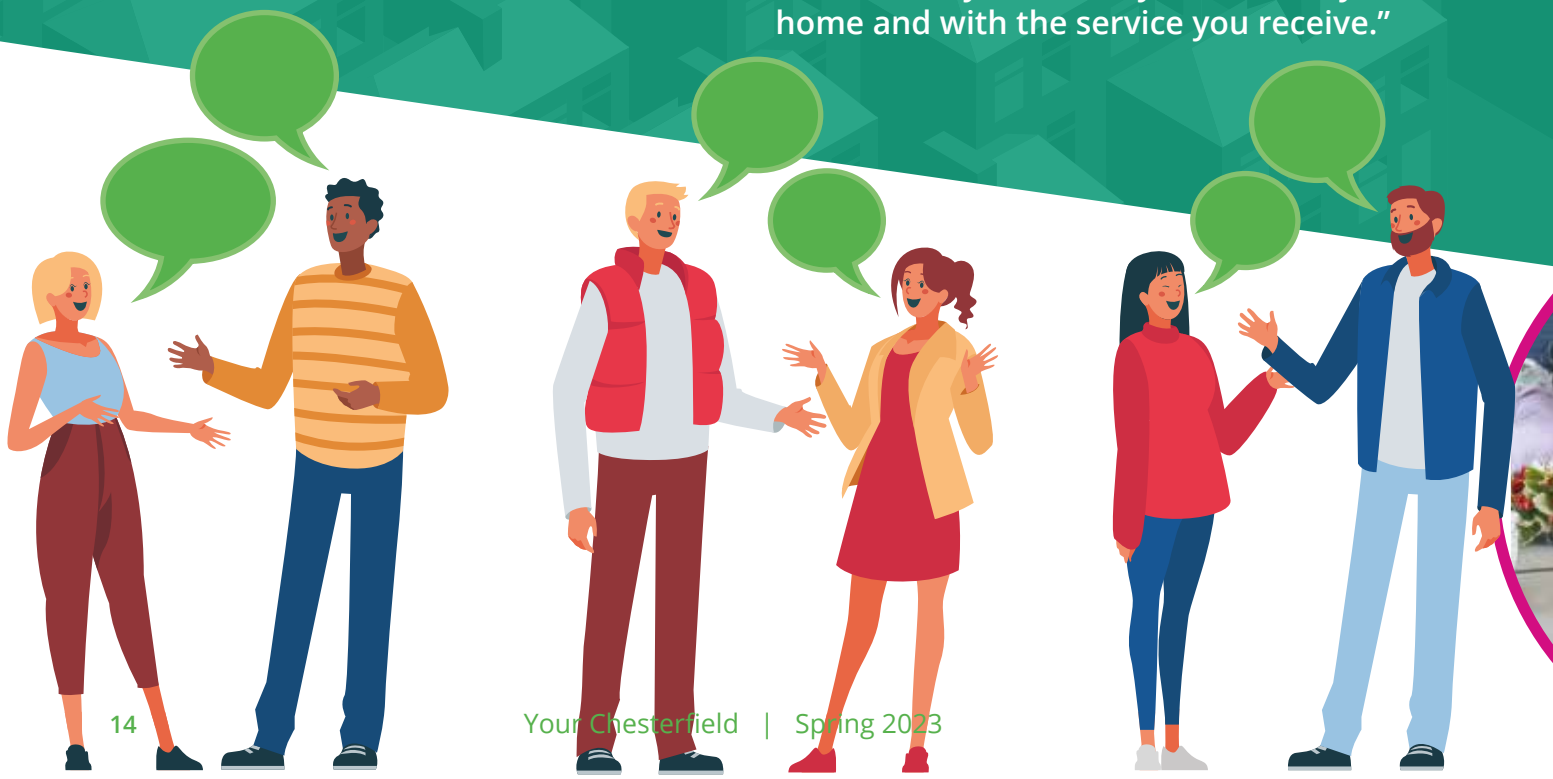
Keeping in touch with our tenants

We are fully committed to working closely with our tenants and are always on the look out for new ways to do this.

We want to make it easy for you to speak to us about how you are getting on in your home, and to let us know if you have any issues and concerns so that we can try to fix them as soon as possible.

To help us achieve this, we're currently undertaking a pilot of 'tenancy visits' with the aim to roll these out to all council tenants later in the year. This will be an opportunity for a member of the team to come and have an informal chat with you at your home. We will write to you directly to book an appointment at a time that suits you.

Councillor Chris Ludlow, cabinet member for housing, said: "The main aim of the visit is to give you the opportunity to have an open and honest chat with a member of our team, share your views on our services and let us know of any concerns that you may have. This will give us the opportunity to work to make things right as soon as we can – to ensure that you are fully satisfied in your home and with the service you receive."



> **“These warm spaces are part of our package of support to help people, and it’s been great to see so many benefitting from what these community hubs and kind-hearted volunteers have on offer.”**
>
> Cllr Jill Mannion-Brunt, cabinet member for health and wellbeing

Offering a warm welcome over winter

Hundreds of people across the borough were supported to keep warm and well this winter, as part of our work with partners to provide dozens of warm spaces across Chesterfield.

From simply popping in for a warm drink and a chat, to taking part in games and activities, there is a range of help and support on hand as part of the thriving network of hubs which sprung up in communities across the borough – many of which are still up and running.

We promoted the initiative, as part of our wider package of support to help people manage with the rising cost of living.

Councillor Jill Mannion-Brunt, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: “We know it’s been a difficult winter for many, with rising fuel and food bills putting a strain on most people.

“These warm spaces are part of our package of support to help people, and it’s been great to see so many benefitting from what these community hubs and kind-hearted volunteers have on offer – thanks to everyone who has helped make them a success.

“Not only do they provide a place for people to go if they are struggling with their energy bills, but it’s also a chance for people to meet others, and feel less isolated and lonely, particularly if they live alone.”

The Cosy Hub in Grangewood (pictured left) was just one of the projects to put on activities for those who went along, including puzzles, floral decoration workshops, baking and pottery sessions.

A number of warm spaces are still up and running across the borough – visit the website to find out more:

www.chesterfield.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support

If you’re struggling to manage your finances, you’re not alone. Support is available through community and charity organisations across the borough. Visit the website above.

Introducing our community enforcement team

Making Chesterfield a thriving borough is at the very heart of what we do – that's why we're launching a new way of working so we can link more closely with our communities and partners to limit the impact that anti-social behaviour has on residents' lives.

Fortunately, Chesterfield is

Our borough is a safe place to live, but we know that when nuisance behaviour happens, it can have a big effect on people's day-to-day lives.

We're working with our communities to tackle the root causes of anti-social behaviour, to identify and resolve issues before they become a problem for local people.

But we're also committed to taking appropriate enforcement action against individuals or groups, if problems are persistent and are causing distress.

Our new community enforcement team will be leading this work around the borough. The team is made up of trained and approachable officers and will be on hand to work with residents, tenants and businesses.

Councillor Jill Mannion-Brunt, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "Fortunately, Chesterfield is a very safe place to live but, like all areas, we know anti-social behaviour can be an issue – and it can have a huge impact on people's lives so we're committed to doing all we can to tackle the problem.

"Listening to local communities, working more closely with our partners and making sure we have a visible and reassuring presence in our communities is at the heart of our new approach.

"We also have a stronger focus on understanding and tackling the root causes of anti-social behaviour to stop problems escalating. This includes using all the powers available to us to help us prevent nuisance in the first place but take proportionate enforcement action when needed."

Previously, anti-social behaviour and any community issues were either handled by the community safety team, or the council's housing service, depending on whether the individual involved was a council tenant.

The new approach will see these services working more closely together to form a single team, provide a single point of contact for anyone to report issues to, and to ensure that all members of the community receive the same level of service.

This approach is part of our new anti-social behaviour strategy, which was approved by the council in December and followed a public consultation on the plans last year.

It has a greater focus on prevention and early intervention and outlines how we are working more closely with our partners. You can view this strategy at **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/living-here/neighbourhoods/anti-social-behaviour**

Our enforcement staff will be regularly visible throughout the borough, including in the town centre, and they will be working hard to address anti-social behaviour and other community issues alongside our partners.

If you need to report anti-social behaviour, you can contact the team by emailing **asb@chesterfield.gov.uk** or by calling **01246 345345.** You can also complete the online form at **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/living-here/neighbourhoods/anti-social-behaviour**

Packers Row completion marks first step in Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield

High quality paving, street signs and seating are among the new features which people will spot on Packers Row, as work on our multi-million pound town centre regeneration scheme gets underway.

Together with the recent transformation of Elder Way, the new-look streets create an attractive and welcoming route from the Northern Gateway into the town centre.

Councillor Kate Sarvent, cabinet member for town centres and visitor economy, said: "These improvements set the high standard we want to create for our town centre and demonstrate our ambitions for the wider Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield project.

"Over the next three years, we will improve the look, feel and flow of key public areas – creating a more welcoming and attractive place, to help ensure the heart of our town thrives for generations to come."

Funding for the works on Packers Row has been provided by the council and our partners, together with match funding which we secured from the Government's levelling up fund.

We are currently working on detailed designs for the rest of the project, which includes improvements to the Market Place, New Square, Corporation Street, Rykneld Square and Burlington Street.

Find out more and sign up to receive our new email newsletter by visiting: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/revitalise**

"Over the next three years, we will improve the look, feel and flow of key public areas – creating a more welcoming and attractive place, to help ensure the heart of our town thrives for generations to come."

Cllr Kate Sarvent, cabinet member for town centres and visitor economy

Cllr Kate Sarvent

Helping local people to be healthier and happier

Hollingwood resident Mick Miller joined the Healthy Living Centre in July last year and has been going every other day since, which is having a positive impact on his wellbeing. We spoke to Mick about what he enjoys about our centre and what keeps him coming back.

Mick said: "I really enjoy visiting the centre as it helps me meet new people and improve my overall health. The Healthy Living Centre is really easy to access, and the staff are very friendly.

"I joined because I was having some pain in my shoulder and thought exercise might help. It has improved the pain, but it's also helped me get healthier.

"I go swimming and I use the gym – I like to focus on the exercise but I do enjoy relaxing in the sauna and steam room. I find this is a really good place to meet new people and talk to them."

Mick has a visual impairment and our staff have made sure to accommodate his needs and give him a warm welcome to the centre. He explained: "The reception team are very friendly. They will always help me find my way around and they really look after me every time I visit."

Mick had his first induction session with one our professional trainers, Vikki. He said: "Vikki has been extremely helpful. Since the induction she has checked in with me and is always very friendly and professional.

"I would encourage others to go to The Healthy Living Centre, the staff are friendly, it has all the equipment to get healthier and it's a really good experience."

New year, new you?

We may be a few months into the new year but it's never too late to think about taking up a healthy new hobby or exercise routine to boost both your physical and mental wellbeing – while also meeting new people.

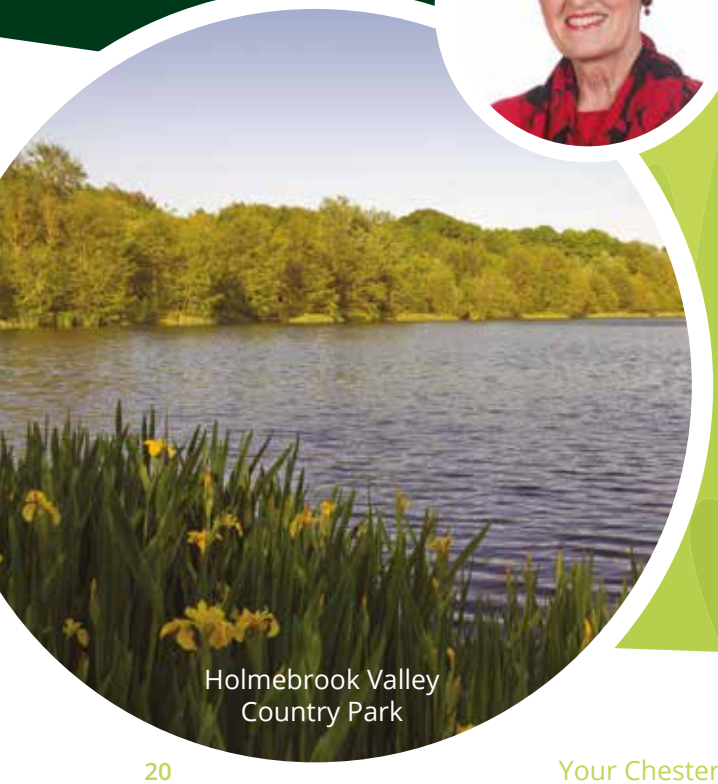
There are a range of great value membership options available, plus a packed timetable of pay-as-you-go activities at both The Healthy Living Centre and Queen's Park Sports Centre

You can find out more by visiting: www.chesterfield.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure

Investing in the future of our parks and play spaces

“We have a proud history of creating places for people to play in and enjoy across the borough and we recognise just how important and valued our parks and green spaces are for everyone in our communities.”

Cllr Jill Mannion-Brunt, cabinet member for health and wellbeing



Holmebrook Valley Country Park

Our borough boasts a range of fantastic parks, green spaces, and play areas for residents and visitors to enjoy – and we’re committed to investing in them for years to come so that future generations can enjoy them too.

In a record-breaking year, five of our parks have been recognised with the prestigious Green Flag Award - the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

Eastwood Park, Queen’s Park, Holmebrook Valley Country Park, Poolsbrook Country Park and the gardens of Chesterfield and District Crematorium were all formally recognised.

Our beautiful green spaces, colourful floral displays and innovative community projects earned the borough a top accolade in the prestigious East Midlands In Bloom competition. We were officially crowned the winner of the ‘Small City’ category in September, the first time we have scooped the sought-after award.

Edinburgh Road Pocket Park also won the award for the ’Best New Permanent Landscape’, whilst the Britannia Inn in Brampton won a Gold Award.

During our judging day we officially opened the new Dementia Awareness Garden on Rose Hill, a quiet place to spend time with friends and family on the edge of the town centre. This was a huge success on the day and saw us pick up a Judges’ Award too.

We’ve also been improving our facilities over the last year, with two of our recreation grounds benefitting from improvements after successfully securing grant funding from the Valencia Communities Fund.

In partnership with the Friends of Brushfield Recreation Ground, who raised £5,000, we secured additional funding to refurbish the play area and install a new outdoor table tennis table.

Eastwood Park

The Friends of Badger Recreation Ground also raised £5,000, which together with additional funding allowed for the installation of a brand-new play area.

After the success of the Year of Outdoors campaign, our parks have also continued to provide activities and events throughout the year. From large events such as county cricket and the popular fireworks extravaganza to school holiday activities such as bird box or Christmas wreath making – we've made sure there has been something for everyone to enjoy in our parks.

Councillor Jill Mannion-Brunt, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We have a proud history of creating places for people to play in and enjoy across the borough and we recognise just how important and valued our parks and green spaces are for everyone in our communities.

"We also understand that having an opportunity to play and explore the outdoors is hugely important for developing both physical and social skills, so we want to provide as many opportunities for residents to do this as we can.

"It's our aim to create a variety of sustainable spaces that provide people of all ages and abilities with accessible, quality, and fun opportunities for play.

"Our parks and green spaces were a lifeline during Covid-19 and have continued to offer opportunities for people to walk, play and chat. As loneliness is reported to be on the increase, our green spaces are a vital resource in the drive to combat loneliness and isolation."

We are currently working on a future delivery plan that will set out what we want to achieve over the next few years - look out for more information soon.

Badger Recreation Ground

Brushfield Recreation Ground

Training provider for the Construction Skills Hub appointed

Chesterfield College and the University of Derby have been appointed as the training provider for our new Construction Skills Hub in Mastin Moor, which is set to provide specialist training and career insights for thousands of learners in Staveley.

The innovative Construction Skills Hub – which is being delivered as part of the Staveley Town Deal - aims to open in Autumn 2023 and will provide a practical platform for construction training, careers activity and work experience for more than 5,000 learners over ten years.

Councillor Amanda Serjeant, deputy leader of the council, said: "It's fantastic that the college and university will be working together to support this project. As well as providing support for trade skills, this partnership provides the opportunity to progress to a university level and develop the skills needed for roles like quantity surveyor or estimator, ensuring that everyone in Staveley can start, stay, and grow in the town."

A site for the hub has already been identified in collaboration with the Devonshire Group, which will be bringing forward a new housing development in Mastin Moor. This will allow trainees to develop their skills on a live housing site, and in time there will also be opportunities to gain experience on other Staveley Town Deal construction projects.

Andrew Byrne, Property Development Director for the Devonshire Group, said: "We are deeply committed to offering opportunities for learning and skills development, and to making a real difference to the lives and employment prospects of those in our communities, so we are delighted to be able to assist the council in providing a home for the hub. Supporting the next generation of people who will help create our built environment is something to be truly proud of."

Initially the hub will provide training in site and bench joinery, brickwork, ground works and electrical installation but in time will offer opportunities in retrofit and green technologies. It will be open to school leavers and other residents seeking to train or retrain.

"It's fantastic that the college and university will be working together to support this project, providing people with the opportunity to progress to a university level."

Cllr Amanda Serjeant, deputy leader of the council

Creating a new education facility

Staveley Miners Welfare Football Club is making great progress towards delivering a new academy where young people can gain qualifications in sport, thanks to the Staveley Town Deal.

Planning permission for the new classroom space, which will be above the existing club house, was granted last year. In November 2022 an agreement was signed with Virtual Learning UK, who were selected to deliver the Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development.

The club is aiming to have a contractor start the building works as soon as the season ends, with the ambition of having their first intake of students in September 2023.

Terry Damms, chairman of the club, said: "The prospect of new facilities for the Staveley community and creating closer links for 16 to 18-year-olds to develop their skills and complete their education is really exciting. I can't wait to start welcoming our first learners and hope that the qualifications we can offer will give them the best possible start to their careers.

"The Trojans are a community and this is yet another clear example of us understanding and delivering the ethos required to suit the wide range of people within the Staveley community."

As well as developing the Skills Academy the club also led the site clearance and refurbishment of the car park opposite the Chantry Playing Fields. The enhanced car park provides more spaces and better visibility. It will not only help parents dropping their children off to the club's youth games, it also serves the cemetery and links up with Poolsbrook Country Park and the Trans Pennine Way.

Volunteer with the Chesterfield Canal Trust

The Chesterfield Canal Trust will be restoring a stretch of the canal using funding from the Staveley Town Deal.

This includes the reconstruction of 850m of canal channel, two new bridges, a new lock and over three kilometres of footpath improvements along the towpath - enhancing the connection of routes to existing networks, including the Trans Pennine Trail.

The Trust is run by volunteers, who give up their time to realise the dream of seeing the canal fully restored. You can also gain skills and experience by volunteering.

They have a wide range of roles available, including helping to restore and maintain the canal, gardening at Hollingwood Hub or even helping maintain their historic archive.

Most of their roles don't require any skills or experience but could help you develop your own abilities. There is also the potential to develop technical skills through specialist training.

You can find out more about the volunteering opportunities available on the Chesterfield Canal Trust website: **www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk/membership/volunteering**

Please clean up after your dog

Most local dog owners are responsible and always clean up after their pets, but we still receive regular reports about dog fouling across the borough.

It's important that everyone cleans up after their dog because not only is it unpleasant, it can also pose a health risk to people.

Dog waste can contain a parasite which causes an infection that can lead to blindness in severe cases.

We have 450 dog waste bins in the borough but if the waste is securely bagged you can place it in any street bin or take it home and put it in your black wheelie bin.

To try and combat dog fouling we display educational signage to remind residents to pick up after their dog as well as, paint stencils on pavements, and where appropriate we will issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

You can report dog fouling to us. Visit our website to find out more:
www.chesterfield.gov.uk/dog-fouling

Step out for this year's walking festival

The popular Chesterfield Area Walking Festival is returning for another year, with walks exploring the area which are suitable for everyone.

The annual festival takes place from 13 to 21 May and offers the opportunity to take part in gentle strolls, family walks and big days out for seasoned hikers.

Lots of popular walks from previous years will be returning, such as the 34-mile Chesterfield Round, and there are also some great new additions for 2023.

You can book your tickets for the festival by visiting:
www.visitchesterfield.info/walkingfestival

If you're eager to get out and about ahead of the festival, why not take a look at this series of local self-led walks by visiting:
www.visitchesterfield.info/walking

Reflecting on ‘Chesterfield in Lockdown’

An exhibition that captures local people’s experiences of the Covid-19 lockdowns will be open in March – helping people to reflect on what was an unprecedented and difficult time in our living history.

The ‘Chesterfield in Lockdown’ exhibition features a range of items submitted by local people, including poems, artwork, textiles, photography and film, and has been curated by our Chesterfield Museum team to help share and commemorate the different experiences that residents had during the pandemic.

It also features Chesterfield’s Big Lockdown Textile, a colourful creation made up of fabric tiles which have been designed and created by local residents.

People are invited to visit the exhibition, which will be on display in the Main Hall of the Assembly Rooms above Chesterfield Market Hall from Monday 6 March to Friday 28 April, opening Monday to Saturday, 11am to 3pm.

What's on

Winding Wheel Theatre www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk Box office: (01246) 345222

An Evening with Henry Blofeld

Friday 24 February, 7.30pm
An absolute treat for the cricket connoisseur.

A Blinder of a Murder Mystery Dinner

Saturday 25 February at 7.30pm
1920s themed murder mystery dinner.

The Rocket Man

Thursday 2 March at 7.30pm
A tribute to Sir Elton John.

Showaddywaddy

Friday 3 March at 7.30pm
50th Anniversary show.

The Sound and Vision Show

Saturday 4 March at 7.30pm
A tribute to David Bowie.

Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story

Tuesday 7 March 2023 - Saturday 11 March
Multi award-winning West End show. Seen by over 22 million people worldwide.

NT Live - Othello (Cert 12A)

Sunday 12 March at 7pm
by William Shakespeare.

Comedian Henning Wehn

Friday 17 March at 8pm

A Vision of Elvis

Saturday 18 March at 7.30pm
Award-winning Elvis Presley concert starring Rob Kingsley.

Gordon Buchanan - 30 Years in the Wild

Sunday 19 March at 7.30pm
One of the most prominent wildlife presenters and filmmakers working today.

Exhibition on Screen: Mary Cassatt – Painting the Modern Woman (Cert TBC)

Monday 20 March at 2pm
Released in recognition of International Women's Day.

Brian and Roger Eno - Live at the Acropolis (Cert TBC)

Monday 20 March at 7pm

Comedian Chris McCausland

Friday 24 March at 7.30pm

Crooked Spire Northern Soul Club

Saturday 25 March at 8pm, last admission 11pm

Chesterfield Symphony Orchestra

Sunday 26 March at 7.30pm
Celebrating their 40th anniversary with a 'Greatest Hits' concert.

Dementia Friendly Screening - Carousel (U)

Monday 27 March at 1pm - 4pm (film starts 1.30pm)

Totally Tina

Thursday 30 March at 7.30pm
The UK's supreme Tina – Justine Riddoch – and her talented cast.

The ELO Experience

Friday 31 March at 7.30pm
The world's foremost multi award winning tribute to The Electric Light Orchestra.

Calling Planet Earth

Saturday 1 April at 7.30pm
A journey through the Electrifying 80s.

The Cavern Beatles

Sunday 2 April at 7.30pm
A Magical History Tour through the works of the greatest pop music phenomenon.

Easter Panto – Rapunzel

Tuesday 4 April at 2pm and 7pm
Star cast to be announced soon.

The Diana Ross Story

Saturday 8 April at 7.30pm
A celebration of Diana Ross and The Supremes.

Psychic Sally

Wednesday 12 April at 7.30pm
The nation's favourite psychic is back on tour!

Dr. Feelgood

Saturday 15 April at 7.30pm
One of the most popular and exciting live rhythm and blues acts in the world.

Country Superstars

Sunday 16 April at 7.30pm
Showcasing some of the most influential icons who shaped Country music history.

James Ketchell - It's All Mental

Monday 17 April at 7.30pm
The record-breaking aviator, adventurer and author's second UK tour.

Winding Wheel Theatre continued

NT Live - Good (15)

Thursday 20 April at 7pm

Marti Pellow: Pellow Talk

Friday 21 April at 7.30pm
"...think of it as coming back to my place for a night of stories and songs", Marti.

Francis Rossi - Tunes and Chat

Saturday 22 April at 7.30pm
A unique evening with the Status Quo legend.

Abba Forever

Sunday 23 April at 7.30pm
Recognised as one of the best live recreations of ABBA Live in Concert.

Exhibition on Screen: Vermeer (Cert TBC)

Monday 24 April at 2pm

Songs from the Shows

Friday 28 April at 7.30pm
Community concert with Long Eaton Silver Prize Brass Band.

Hello Again - A Tribute to Neil Diamond

Saturday 29 April at 7.30pm
"Absolutely mesmerising..." Sky TV

The New York Bee Gees

Sunday 30 April at 7.30pm
Performed by Long Island New York's most versatile and exceptionally talented musicians.

The Serial Killer Next Door

Thursday 11 May at 7.30pm
Talk from notable psychological therapist and crime commentator, Emma Kenny.

Comedian Roy Chubby Brown

Friday 12 May at 7.30pm

Paul Young - Behind the Lens

Saturday 13 May at 7.30pm
Revel in the classic hits and learn the stories behind them.

Comedian Tim Vine

Friday 19 May at 7.30pm

Go your Own Way

Friday 26 May at 7.30pm
Spellbinding show featuring the music of Fleetwood Mac.

Exhibition on Screen: Tokyo Stories (Cert TBC)

Monday 5 June at 2pm

The Diana Ross Story

Saturday 10 June at 7.30pm
A fantastic show in celebration of Diana Ross and The Supremes.

The King of Reggae

Friday 16 June at 7.30pm
Rush Theatre Company present this brand new narrated musical.

Please be aware events and performances may be subject to change,for the latest information visit:

www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk and www.visitchesterfield.info/whats-on

Chesterfield markets

Chesterfield Market runs every Monday, Friday and Saturday, plus the Thursday Flea Market, which is one of the largest in the Midlands. Speciality Sunday markets also run regularly throughout the year in Chesterfield town centre:

Vegan Market

First Sunday of the month

Record Fair

Second Sunday of the month

Artisan Market

Last Sunday of the month

Young Person's Market

Sunday 30 April

Museum on the move

Traditional games day

Thursday 23 February
Unit 23 Pavements Shopping Centre
Bring the family along and challenge them to a game of quoits, shove ha'penny and many more traditional games which children used to play.

Other events

Chesterfield Pride

Sunday 23 July at Stand Road Park
For information and tickets visit **www.chesterfieldpride.co.uk**

Chesterfield Medieval Fun Day

Tuesday 25 July in Chesterfield town centre

Chesterfield Eat in the Park

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 August at Queen's Park
For information and tickets visit **www.eatinthepark.uk**

Supporting the entrepreneurial vision of Chesterfield residents

Entrepreneurs in Chesterfield are getting a boost from a business support scheme which provides them with tailor-made advice, guidance and funding to get their ideas off the ground.

The Vision Derbyshire Business Start-Up and Business Support Grant Scheme is open to people who live in Derbyshire and want to bring their business idea to life, or who have recently set up a new venture.

We spoke to some of the people who have benefitted from the project and found out how it helped them turn their dreams into a reality.

Blooms & Bantams

Vicky Staniland launched her dream business Blooms and Bantams in 2022 after growing and arranging flowers for her own wedding, and spotting a gap in the market.

The New Whittington-based business grows and sells British flowers locally. Sustainability is at the core of the business, selling directly to customers wanting gift bouquets or event flowers. It focusses on British-grown, fresh flowers that are cultivated in a way that is as close to nature as possible.

Shortly after starting the business, Vicky approached the Vision Derbyshire Business Start Up Support Scheme for advice. Vicky said: "My business advisor, Sara, has been instrumental to the success of Blooms & Bantams' first year. The advice I have received has always been constructive and has encouraged me to explore options and considerations that I would have likely ignored without prompt. These opportunities have encouraged me to develop connections and gain access to resources that have been incredibly useful in the first stages of starting a business."

Vicky also received a grant from the scheme, which allowed her to buy new raised raised beds and increase her growing space.

“I would urge any new business owner to seek the support of the Vision Derbyshire programme as it may help provide the information and guidance that is so useful during those first few months of trading.”

Vicky Staniland

Vicky said: “This additional space will allow me to increase my output volume and grow many more flowers for sale next year. This in turn will mean I am able to accommodate more customers and embrace new opportunities, such as with corporate clients and grow the business further by developing a wholesale arm.

“I would urge any new business owner to seek the support of the Vision Derbyshire programme as it may help provide the information and guidance that is so useful during those first few months of trading.”

Virtue Virtual Assistance

Suzanne Lloyd worked in business and office management for over 15 years, but after having been made redundant, during the height of the pandemic she saw an opportunity to start her own virtual assistance business.

Launched in 2021, the Hasland-based business offers friendly and bespoke virtual assistance, HR management and bookkeeping services – all personalised to the needs of small businesses. Once up-and-running, she accessed support through the Vision Derbyshire advisors to help her business grow.

Suzanne said: “After being made redundant from my last two positions, I finally feel in control. I can work with people I wish to work for, who share the same morals and values as me. I have never worked with so many amazing individuals who truly respect me and value the work that I do. To feel appreciated every day is such a nice feeling and the flexibility and quality time it has given to my family has truly changed my life.

“Working alongside my business advisor has changed my whole mindset about what I, and my new business, can achieve. Sara has helped me to challenge my own perceptions of what opportunities I can seize. My confidence has grown, and as a result doors have opened that I didn’t know would be possible. I’m really proud of how far I have come in such a short time. I’ve had to push myself out of my comfort zone, but it’s so rewarding when I get new enquiries on the back of referrals from happy clients.”

Councillor Tricia Gilby, Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council, is the lead councillor for the Vision Derbyshire Business Start Up Support Scheme.

“Working alongside my business advisor has changed my whole mindset about what I, and my new business, can achieve”

Suzanne Lloyd

To find out more about the support available visit: **www.derbyshire.gov.uk/business/support-advice/vision-derbyshire/vision-derbyshire-business-support**

Contact us

We provide more than 50 services to our residents including: waste collection and recycling, street cleaning, leisure and park facilities, housing, environmental protection, planning, regeneration, housing, markets, theatres and tourism.

The answers to most of your queries will be available on our website: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk** and you can manage a range of council services through My Chesterfield (register at **www.chesterield.gov.uk/mychesterfield**)

If you can't find what you are looking for, you can fill in a contact form **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/contact**

General enquiries - (01246) 345345

For enquiries about specific services call:

Chesterfield Theatres box office

(01246) 345222

box.office@chesterfield.gov.uk

Chesterfield Visitor Information Centre

(01246) 345777 or 345778

tourism@chesterfield.gov.uk

Healthy Living Centre - (01246) 345666

hlcenquiries@chesterfield.gov.uk

Queen's Park Sports Centre - (01246) 345555

qpscenquiries@chesterfield.gov.uk

Chesterfield Citizen Advice - 0808 278 7843

Are we **accessible** to you?

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你可覺得易於與我們接觸？若不的話，請提出要求。

Czy łatwo jest skontaktować się z nami? Jeżeli nie, powiedz nam o tym!

Siamo accessibili nei vostri riguardi? In caso contrario rivolgetevi a noi!

We aim to provide what you need to be able to understand our information or talk or write to us.

On request we will provide free of charge:

Language interpreters, including for sign language

Translation of written material into other languages

Material in braille, large print and recorded onto CD

Please contact us:

General enquiries: **01246 345345**

Text: **07960 910264**

Web: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk**

Email: **info@chesterfield.gov.uk**

For housing related queries please call our main number (01246) 345345 except for:

Careline - 0300 303 3378

Homelessness prevention team - (01246) 345825

homelessness.prevention@chesterfield.gov.uk

Homelessness (out of hours) - 08081 629 333

Home Options – for all council house waiting list and allocations queries

Visit the website at: www.home-options.org

(01246) 345700

home.options@chesterfield.gov.uk

Neighbourhoods team - (01246) 345071

neighbourhoods.team@chesterfield.gov.uk

Rents and rent recovery - (01246) 345501 or 345510

Reporting housing repairs - 0800 5875 659

repair.requests@chesterfield.gov.uk

Emergency housing repairs – out of hours only

(01246) 345041

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CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Planting more trees in Chesterfield

Over the last year we've been busy planting more trees across the entire borough.

Councillor Jill Mannion-Brunt, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We've planted over 2000 trees in the last year and by working with our community we're ensuring they are planted in the right places and are improving our green spaces whilst also helping the environment. Our volunteer tree wardens have been a great help with monitoring trees and planting more, I want to thank each of them for their efforts over the last year. If you'd like to be a tree warden you'd be very welcome and we'd love to see you."

Cllr Mannion-Brunt with a pupil from Staveley Junior School

In 2022 we worked with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to plant more than 2000 trees across the borough, with a focus on improving biodiversity and enhancing wildlife habitats.

In November we marked National Tree Week by planting 16 Sweet Gum trees in King George V Playing Fields in Staveley. We were joined by children from Staveley Junior School, Friends of King George V Playing Fields, Staveley King George Bowlers, tree wardens, and local councillors.

The tree-lined avenue follows on from upgrades to the play area and a new outdoor gym that were completed in 2021.

Other tree planting projects to create a greener borough have included:

60 trees were planted in Badger Recreation Park.

Four new community orchard sites have been created, and we've improved our existing orchards.

Wild cherry trees have been planted in Holmebrook Valley Country Park to create a Covid-19 memorial.

Planting has taken place across the borough as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. Since the passing of Her Majesty in September, we have created a new woodland on Darley Close in Staveley that will serve as a memorial to Queen Elizabeth II.

If you are interested in caring for trees in Chesterfield by becoming a volunteer tree warden, please email: green.spaces@chesterfield.gov.uk

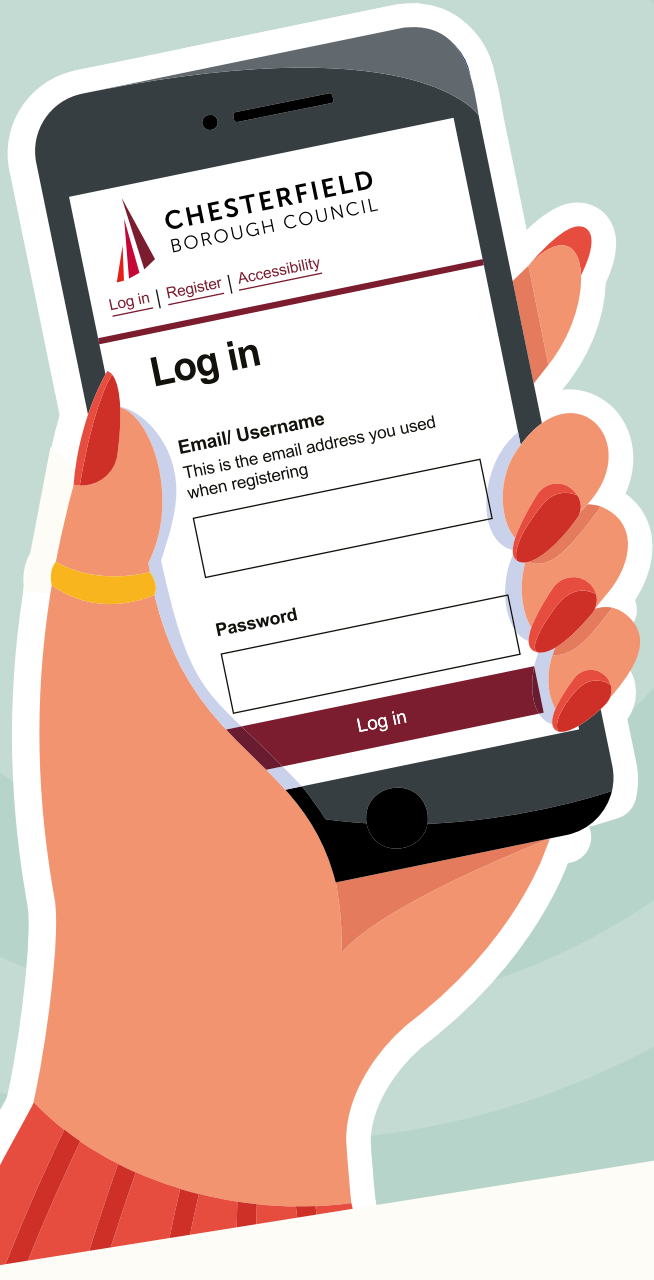
> **"We've planted over 2000 trees in the last year - improving our green spaces whilst also helping the environment"**
>
> Cllr Jill Mannion-Brunt, cabinet member for health and wellbeing

Our volunteer tree wardens help care for trees across the borough

View your rent accounts at the touch of a button!

You can:

- view charges
- view your rent account balances
- check your payment information
- find out when direct debits are due
- view statements



If you live in a council property, or rent a garage from the council, you can now manage your rent accounts online, via My Chesterfield.

It's quick and easy to sign up – scan the QR code or visit the website:

www.chesterfield.gov.uk/mychesterfield

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