News from **Chesterfield Borough Council**

Your Chesterfield

Incorporating **Our Homes** tenants' newsletter

Register to vote - page 6

Careline, a lifesaver - page 7

CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Issue 23 **Winter 2021**

Welcome

As we look forward to spring, better days are ahead of us.

Councillor Tricia Gilby

But there's no doubt that it continues to be a challenging time for everyone as we face ongoing restrictions on our daily lives in a bid to control the spread of Covid-19.

I'd firstly like to remind you of the great support network that we have in Chesterfield, so please don't feel alone. You can see more details opposite and on page 24.

And for our local business owners enduring such tough times, please do make sure you're receiving any grants you're entitled to (visit www.chesterfield.gov.uk/bsg for details).

In this edition we've got some really uplifting stories – including the life-saving action of some of our Careline staff (page seven), local youngsters who dug deep to plant hundreds of spring bulbs (page three), another top award for our excellent parks (page 23) and lots of work to help support the skills development of our young people.

And despite the economic impact of the pandemic, I'm proud to say that Chesterfield is not standing still. We're pressing ahead with some flagship projects which will contribute to a strong recovery for the borough.

We're asking for people's views on major plans to regenerate the area around the train station (pages 12 to 13) – creating a vibrant new gateway to the borough, and with sustainability at its heart.

Our state-of-the-art Northern Gateway offices are on track for opening later this year, and there are also a raft of other improvements in the town centre (page nine).

With the roll-out of the vaccines and community testing in Chesterfield, brighter months are ahead of us. For now, we must all continue to play our part in protecting the most vulnerable.

For the latest Government guidance, and information on vaccines and testing, please visit **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/coronavirus**

Get help from the community

There are lots of local community groups and organisations that are offering help and support for Chesterfield residents, if you're struggling with money or lockdown issues.

Food Banks

For information on foodbanks near you visit the website for Rural Action Derbyshire: www.ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk/foodbanks

or call: 01629 529970

Chesterfield Citizen's Advice

Advice Helpline call: 0808 278 7843

DCC Community Response Unit

If you have no one to support you or if you are 'vulnerable' and you need support to access food, prescriptions or befriending, contact 01629 535091

Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre

Call 01246 231442, email: info@duwc.org.uk or send the team a Facebook message

Domestic Abuse

Call: 08000 198 668. If it's an emergency, call 999.

Text: Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Support Line 07534 617252 or email: derbyshiredahelpline@theelmfoundation.org.uk

Derbyshire National Careers Service

For aged 19yrs + (or age 18 if not in education or employment). Chesterfield area: 07717 303855 or wendy.leigh@derbyshire.gov.uk

Homelessness

Pathways of Chesterfield: 01246 498204 or visit: **www.pathwaysofchesterfield.co.uk**

Mental Health Support line

Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust: 0800 028 0077 (24hrs/seven days)

Government restrictions are subject to ongoing change.
Please check our website for the latest information: www.chesterfield.gov.uk/coronavirus

Getting ready for a **blooming marvellous 2021**

Local schoolchildren and volunteers have helped Chesterfield's parks to blossom this spring – after planting more than 26,000 flowering bulbs back in the autumn.

L to R: Jessica Popplewell-Barker, her daughter Jasmine Blanksby, Paul Cocking and Cllr Jill Manion-Brunt.

They worked together in a series of socially distanced planting sessions which were jointly organised by the council and the Chesterfield in Bloom campaign.

Councillor Jill Mannion-Brunt, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "It's fantastic to see so many people volunteer their time to help make our parks and open spaces even more beautiful. These planting sessions really help connect our communities and provide local residents with an important role in their green spaces.

"I had a great time getting out in my local park planting bulbs with the community, and it's now nice to see all that hard work pay off as we approach spring."

Local ward councillors joined volunteers young and old to create colourful displays at several community sites in the borough.

At Whitecotes Playing Field, pupils from William Rhodes Primary School and volunteers from the Friends of Whitecotes Playing Field planted 3,000 bulbs.

Friends of Badger Recreation Ground dug deep to put in 3,500 bulbs under the trees next to the park. The council planted a further 1,500 bulbs in this park.

Year six pupils from Highfield Hall Primary School planted 2,000 bulbs in Stand Road Park.

The Healthy Friends of Edinburgh Park planted 5,000 bulbs to brighten up Edinburgh Road Pocket Park. This display was boosted by more planting by the council last autumn, and further development of this park is planned for this year.

The Chesterfield In Bloom committee held a planting session with six of its members on the Brimington one-way system island, where they planted 500 Tulip bulbs.

Bolsover Rotary Club also supported this initiative and used their own funds to plant 4,000 purple crocus bulbs on Summerskill Green in Inkersall. This planting commemorates World Polio Day and aims to help raise awareness of the disease.

Councillor Jill Mannion-Brunt added: "These community-spirited initiatives not only brighten up local neighbourhoods, but also support the local In Bloom entry – thanks to everyone for their support!

Indiana Barker with his dad, Craig Barker.

Funding boost for community projects

Community projects in Chesterfield are benefitting from more than £80,000 which has been awarded from a council-led scheme to support grassroots organisations.

An initiative which supports young people to read, a new community outdoor gym and a group which helps older people to enjoy cycling are among the projects to receive money from our Community Infrastructure Levy.

Councillor Tricia Gilby, Leader of the council, said: "Our community organisations are crucial to thriving neighbourhoods and so many have really stepped up to support Chesterfield people during the challenges of the pandemic.

"Through schemes like these we're able to support grassroots projects which are so vital to local people. The funding is allocated to projects that support our priorities and have a significant benefit to local communities."

Projects to receive money in the latest round of funding include:

Inclusive Pedals

This is a social enterprise which aims to create more opportunities for people to experience cycling. The money is being used to support a new 'Cycling Without Age' project.

The service includes the use of a special three-seat, electrically-assisted bike called a 'trishaw' – used by volunteer cyclists to provide free rides to older residents.

Alastair Meikle, Coordinator of Inclusive Pedals, said: "We're very excited to be starting our Cycling Without Age project in Chesterfield with this funding. It means we can launch the intergenerational project in spring, with older generations and less able people being taken out for a cycle ride by younger volunteers on the electrically-assisted trishaw."

Computer generated image of how the Holme Hall outside gym could look.

Holme Hall Unite

A new outdoor gym will be created in Holme Hall – in response to demand from local people. The project will be led by Holme Hall Unite, a local group that provides a community hub, manages a community garden and has helped support vulnerable residents during the pandemic.

Tony Hedley, Chair of the group, said: "This project was one of the most requested by our community, I'm sure it will get a lot of use. It will ensure that everyone in our community has excellent access to equipment that will help provide them with a healthier lifestyle."

Friends of New Whittington Schools

Group leaders are using the funding boost to help expand school libraries and make them more accessible for pupils at home.

John Bell, Extended Services Officer at The Learner's Trust which operates several schools in Chesterfield, said: "With this funding we are creating a digital library service using the Borrowbox platform. Children will be able to instantly access a wealth of untapped reading material, which they can simply loan out and download, creating a home library for hundreds of children, across the wider community and within The Learners' Trust Academy of schools."

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT

Make sure you're registered to vote

Residents are being urged to make sure they are registered to vote ahead of the elections this year.

Voters will go to the polls on Thursday 6 May* for both the Derbyshire County Council and the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections.

We have made every effort to ensure that all polling stations will be as Covid-secure as possible and will follow the latest Government guidance. If you don't feel comfortable visiting a polling station you can vote by post or through a proxy vote – where you appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf.

You can vote in the elections if:

- you are 18 years old or older (you can register to vote at age 16);
- you are a British, Commonwealth, Irish or European Union citizen;
- you live in the Chesterfield Borough Council area.

If you are not currently registered to vote then the deadline for receiving applications to vote on 6 May is midnight on Monday 19 April 2021.

Registering is very simple. Visit **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote** and fill in your name, address, date of birth and other details.

You will need your National Insurance number, which you can find on your National Insurance card, on official paperwork such as payslips, or letters about benefits or tax credits.

All households have recently been sent a Household Notification Letter to confirm who is registered at the property. A postal vote form was included for anyone who did not have an absent vote arrangement in place.

If you have not received this and would prefer a postal or proxy vote please apply on our website at **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/registering-to-vote**. For postal vote applications this form will need to be completed and received by the elections team no later than 5pm on Tuesday 20 April and for proxy vote application forms 5pm on Tuesday 27 April for the 6 May elections.

For more information about registering to vote call (01246) 345402 or email elections@chesterfield.gov.uk.

**Information correct at the time Your Chesterfield went to print.*

Remember to complete your Census

Residents are being reminded to keep a look out for the 2021 Census – a survey that happens every 10 years and provides a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

It's really important that you take part because it helps local authorities, charities and the Government understand the services and funding that communities need.

To be carried out in March, Census 2021 is the first one to be available online. You can complete it on a laptop, or computer as well as mobile devices. It's quick and easy to do - you'll receive more information by post about how take part.

Please be aware that completing the census is a legal requirement. If you don't do it, or if you supply false information, you could be fined up to £1,000. Some questions are clearly labelled as voluntary and these do not require an answer.

For more information visit: **www.census.gov.uk**

Careline – it's a lifesaver

Quick-thinking council staff have been praised for helping to save the life of a local resident after a fire broke out in her home.

One evening in late 2020, the council's Careline team received a call from an elderly local resident who had pressed her Careline alarm pendant to call for help after a fall in her kitchen.

Whilst calmly speaking to the resident to find out more about her injuries, careline response officer, Jodie, heard a noise in the background and soon recognised that this was the smoke alarm – triggered because the curtains in the resident's home had set alight.

Jodie's colleague, Martin, heard what was happening and immediately sprang into action to call the emergency services, relaying the information Jodie received from the resident who had called for help.

Jodie calmly stayed on the phone until the emergency services arrived and also contacted the resident's family who were able to get to the property and help her out safely.

Councillor Chris Ludlow, cabinet member for housing, said: "We are really proud of how quickly Jodie and Martin reacted to this call and leapt in to action to help. If Jodie hadn't been so calm on the phone and responded to hearing the alarm in the background, this could have been a very different story.

"Careline provides peace of mind to you, your family and your loved ones so that no matter what, someone will be there to help should something go wrong while you are at home.

You might never need to use the pendant but having it there could be a life saver."

Could Careline help you?

Careline is our independently accredited 24/7 pendant alarm monitoring and response service. You'll be provided with a pendant which can be worn around your neck or wrist – this is an alarm which you can press to call for an emergency response from our Careline team.

Careline can then get in touch with your emergency contacts, request medical assistance, call the emergency services or send a Careline response officer to make sure you are safe and well.

Through our support service, we can also work with you to develop a personalised support plan, helping you to live independently, with peace of mind.

To find out more call 0300 323 0076 or visit **www.chesterfield.gov.uk** and search for 'Careline'.

Chesterfield celebrates as parks and green spaces win Green Flag

proudly raised the Green Flag in all of these sites – an international mark of quality green spaces.

The impressive accolade is awarded to sites which boast the highest possible environmental standards, are beautifully maintained and have

Getting back to **business**

We're recovering from a year like no other. From independent retailers and hospitality venues, to high street chains and big manufacturers, businesses in the borough have endured months of uncertainty and disruption at the hands of Covid-19.

But we're working hard to get our local economy back on its feet, alongside our partners and the business community.

Through our Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan – and by pushing ahead with our ambitious £1bn growth programme – Chesterfield is not standing still; we're rebuilding for the future.

Here we put the spotlight on some of the major regeneration projects and initiatives which are transforming our town centres – bringing new investment, jobs and skills development opportunities into the borough.

Pupils get creative to design a new logo for ambitious Staveley town project

Pupils at Springwell Community College were challenged to create a new logo to capture the spirit of a major project which aims to regenerate their town.

Almost 70 young people submitted their designs to the Staveley Town Deal logo competition.

Alex Atkinson (shown in the photo below) was declared the overall winner for his design which incorporated some of Staveley's most well-known landmarks.

The winning entry was picked by a judging panel which included the Chair of the Staveley Town Deal Board, Ivan Fomin, and Staveley-based design company, Q2 Creative.

Ivan Fomin said: "The winning logo portrayed hope for Staveley with a bright sun and blended the canal and waterways whilst retaining the history with the winding wheel."

Councillor Tricia Gilby, Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council, added: "It's vital that the Town Deal engages young people because it is about ensuring that Staveley is a thriving town with great opportunities where young people can build their future.

"Well done to Alex for his excellent design, and thanks to all the young people who took part."

Work progresses on Northern Gateway Enterprise Centre

Work on high-quality office accommodation which will support new and growing businesses in the town is on track to be completed by the summer – despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Northern Gateway Enterprise Centre is now watertight – meaning another key milestone has been reached on the project.

Councillor Dean Collins, cabinet member for economic growth, said: "It is fantastic to see this building progressing with such pace. Our contractor – Robert Woodhead has worked incredibly hard and overcome many challenges to make sure they can deliver this project without delay in a Covid-secure environment.

"I'm confident that this enterprise centre will provide the space and support for business men and women to express their entrepreneurial spirit and start or grow local businesses in the centre. This will help ensure that we a creating a thriving borough with lots of opportunities for young people to develop excellent careers in our town."

In January glazing was added to the building, which is of a high standard for maximum thermal efficiency. The first fix for mechanical and electrical engineering was completed and work began on the brickwork and cladding.

Work dividing the interior and installing a lift has begun and by March the electrical works should be in place so that the power can be turned on.

Contractors Robert Woodhead have also achieved an 'excellent' mark in the initial Considerate Constructor Scheme assessment, which aims to raise standards in the construction industry. The building also remains on target to achieve an 'excellent' rating for its environmental sustainability.

To find out more about office facilities at the Northern Gateway Enterprise Centre visit www.chesterfield.gov.uk/northern-gateway-enterprise-centre

Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield

A multimillion-pound project to revitalise the heart of Chesterfield by improving the public space and securing the future of the market has begun.

In January work began on the improvements to the public space around Elder Way – designed to create a more inviting pedestrian route from the new Northern Gateway Enterprise Centre to the Market Place.

The project will also make improvements to Chesterfield's outdoor market. Residents, traders and businesses have been putting forward their views on potential ideas to improve the market such as a new layout, more seating and landscaping. Their comments are helping shape the proposals which will be consulted on before work begins.

Councillor Kate Sarvent, cabinet member for town centre and visitor economy, said: "Chesterfield Market is the heart and soul of the town and we want to do everything we can to ensure it has a secure future. The response to the surveys in December was fantastic and shows that people really do care and do want to see our town prosper.

"I hope this enthusiasm will continue throughout this year and many more of you will participate in our consultation process because we want to work together to make positive changes that our whole town can be proud of."

Meanwhile, work on Elder Way is underway and will be complete by summer 2021.

Improvements include:

- The reconstruction and widening of existing footways and paved areas with a mix of high-quality paving
- Taxi rank improvements on Knifesmithgate
- A range of formal and informal pedestrian crossing improvements
- The de-cluttering of the street scene by removing obstacles to pedestrian movement
- The introduction of trees into the street scene
- Introduction / improved design of loading bays
- New bus shelters and re-positioned bus stops on Elder Way
- New street furniture
- Road resurfacing.

The improvement work may create some short-term inconvenience for businesses and visitors in the area. Regular updates can be found on the council's website: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/elder_way_public_realm_improvements**

More details about the Market Place consultation will be available on the council's website and social media pages later this year.

Funding for the project has been provided by the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund and D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership.

Have your say on ambitious regeneration plans for Chesterfield

People are being encouraged to have their say on plans to transform the area between the town centre and Chesterfield Train Station – creating a vibrant gateway to North Derbyshire and setting out potential sites to create around 850 new jobs.

The HS2 Station Master Plan was approved by the council's Cabinet on 2 February and is now out for public consultation. Residents, businesses, train passengers and visitors to the town can have their say until 8 March.

The proposals – which can be viewed in an innovative virtual exhibition – set out a vision for the future development of the area and are also designed to make the most of the once-in-a-generation plan for a High Speed Rail (HS2) link at Chesterfield.

Councillor Tricia Gilby, Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council, said: "Despite the challenging economic times posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, Chesterfield is not standing still and we're pressing ahead with our £1 billion growth programme – carving out a prosperous future for our borough, while creating jobs and homes for local people.

"Our HS2 Station Master Plan is a key element of this work and we're now asking for local people, businesses, train passengers and visitors to give us their views to help shape the future of our town.

"We want to create a vibrant gateway to North Derbyshire and the Peak District, to better connect this key site to our town centre, and to bring unused and underused land back to life for the benefit of local people. The proposals also have sustainability at their heart – setting out infrastructure improvements to support cycling, walking and better access for public transport."

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions in place, people are being invited to take part in a virtual consultation, with an online exhibition setting out the key proposals. They include:

- Establishing the principle of new development plots to accommodate a mix of uses with the potential to generate a minimum of 850 jobs
- A new station link road (a through route) between Brimington Road and Hollis Lane with improved public transport access
- Closure of the A61 on-slip road
- A new public 'boulevard' for pedestrians and cyclists (including segregated cycle lanes) leading from the station to Corporation Street
- Replacement of the existing A61 footbridge between the station area and Corporation Street with a new wider bridge, including a segregated cycle route
- Suggested changes to Corporation Street to improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists whilst retaining vehicle access to businesses
- A 'transport hub' including a multi-storey car park (with around 550 bays) and charging points for electric vehicles
- A cycle hub with e-bike hire and secure cycle parking
- An overall layout that has the potential for a higher quality of natural habitats including more tree planting
- A new station forecourt to better accommodate buses, coaches, taxis and a drop off/collection point
- A continuous cycle link from Hollis Lane area through to Crow Lane.

Councillor Gilby added: "Our proposals also seek to harness the once-in-a-generation opportunity presented to our region by the HS2 project – a chance to cement Chesterfield's position as a thriving place to invest and do business.

"But it's important to note that this plan can be delivered ahead of – and independently to – the national project if needed.

"This is a flagship plan for our borough's future, and we're keen to hear the views of as many people as possible. Their input will help shape the final version of the Master Plan, which will be used to drive forward regeneration in the town centre."

Funding for regeneration at and around the station and the preparation of the Master Plan has been obtained by Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council through both the Sheffield City Region (SCR) and D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Visit www.chesterfield.gov.uk/HS2-station-master-plan to find out more and access the consultation, which is being run by consultants AECOM. Hard copies of the documents can also be requested, and will be provided in a Covid-safe way – please call 01246 959707.

Keeping safe in your council home

Keeping you and your family safe and well in your home is one of our top priorities.

As a responsible landlord to our council tenants, we carry out regular safety checks to make sure everything is in order. There are things you can do too, to help keep your council property in good shape.

Here we round up some of the key information for council tenants.

Annual gas servicing

A faulty boiler can be extremely dangerous, that's why we complete an annual service. This yearly check can help safeguard against fires, explosions, gas leaks and carbon monoxide poisoning.

It will also make sure that your boiler/appliance is operating as efficiently as possible and help prevent wasted energy.

Not only will this save money on your energy bills, but it will also reduce your carbon footprint and your impact on the environment.

Smell gas? If you smell gas or think there's a gas leak, please call the National Gas Emergency Service immediately on 0800 111 999.

Electrical five-year condition report

Faulty electrics are also a potential hazard – but it's often more difficult to spot when there's a problem. Electrical cables can be hidden inside walls, fuse boards or other locations that are not immediately visible, and so it's hard to see damage.

Faulty and old wiring is one of the main causes of electrical fires in the home. That's why it's important that we carry out a regular condition check on your council property. We do this every five years as part of your tenancy agreement.

Reporting housing repairs

If you need to report an issue in between our regular checks please call 0800 5875 659 or email repair.requests@chesterfield.gov.uk

Visiting your home

It is really important that you let our teams visit your property to carry out these essential services so we can make sure your home is safe. We will give as much notice as we can to arrange a time that suits you.

All of our staff will follow Covid-safe guidance when visiting your home. However, it is important that you let us know if you or a member of your household is self-isolating so we can rearrange as soon as possible.

Please note: Our repairs service may be impacted by ongoing Covid-19 restrictions. Please check the council website for the latest information.

Top tips

How to help keep your home free from condensation

Having mould in your property can be unsightly and – if left without being managed or controlled – can damage your health and your home.

Damp and mould patches on walls, furniture or clothing are likely to be caused by condensation. Here are some handy tips to help to help you reduce and control the condensation in your home:

- Use lids on pans when cooking
- Close your bathroom and kitchen doors to prevent steam going into other rooms
- Open windows and use extractor fans after cooking or bathing
- Avoid drying clothes indoors, especially on radiators
- Ensure your tumble drier is ventilated correctly to the outside of your home
- Prevent steam when filling your bath by part filling it with cold water and topping it up using the hot water
- Don't push wardrobes right up to the walls
- Don't cover airbricks or vents
- Open windows regularly to circulate air around your home
- Wipe down damp surfaces such as windows and glass
- Keep your home well heated, set your heating thermostat on low to provide constant background heat
- Reduce heating in the rooms you don't use but keep them warm and ventilated
- Dehumidifiers won't completely prevent condensation but will help control the moisture which causes it.

If you are a council tenant and you think mould in your home is the result of a building defect, you must let us know straight away. We'll come out to inspect the problem and complete any necessary repairs.

Help us create a **Chesterfield** for the future

Cutting our plastic use

We've pledged to cut the use of single use plastics from our operations – a move backed by local campaign group, Plastic Free Chesterfield.

The motion was backed by the council in December and means we will do all we can to remove as many single use plastics from our service delivery and supply chain over the coming years.

Councillor Amanda Serjeant, Deputy Leader of the council, said: "Many of us will have seen disturbing images of the effect of plastic pollution on the earth's environment and the local impact of plastic litter is very visible.

"While all plastics can end up littering our countryside, killing wildlife, or clogging rivers, single use plastics are frequently the worst culprits. Disposable plastic, while easy to discard, does not decompose over any meaningful timeframe so the problem is building year on year.

"The council provides over 50 services to the borough and by continuing to change the way we do business we can make a significant contribution to the reduction of single use plastic waste locally."

Local people and businesses are also encouraged to make the switch – we're working with local projects including the Plastic Free Chesterfield campaign to spread the word.

Greg Hewitt, Community Lead of Plastic Free Chesterfield, said: "We are delighted that the council has passed this motion, which a significant moment on our journey to make Chesterfield an accredited Plastic Free Community.

"We look forward to working with the council to support our group as well as future plastic free initiatives. We also hope this will lead to the wider community signing up to support our cause to take action and reduce single use plastics in the borough."

Could you do more to cut your plastic waste? Find tips and information from Plastic Free Chesterfield at **www.plasticfreechesterfield.org.uk** Please recycle what you can at home (see page 19 for information).

recycle for Chesterfield

Improving the energy efficiency of our buildings

The energy used in buildings – including our homes, offices, businesses and shops – counts for around 57% of emissions in Chesterfield – so it's a key area for action.

Councillor Amanda Serjeant, Deputy Leader of the council, said: "When we think about our impact on climate change, our homes and buildings are often not the first consideration. But improving energy efficiency and switching to green energy is vital if we plan to meet our objectives in reducing emissions and making Chesterfield a cleaner, greener borough."

We're taking action in a number of ways. We have:

- Switched to a renewable energy supplier for our own buildings
- Started a £13 million programme to improve the energy efficiency of our council homes – reducing fuel use, and cutting heating bills for tenants

- Set new environmental standards for our developments in the borough. For example, the new Northern Gateway Enterprise Centre (above) has been designed to an 'excellent' standard under the BREEAM sustainability framework.

Making your home more energy efficient

There are simple steps you can take to make your home more efficient, while cutting your fuel costs:

- Switch to a renewable energy supplier – visit the Energy Saving Trust at **www.energysavingtrust.org.uk** for more information
- Swap lightbulbs for LED alternatives, these are even more energy efficient than fluorescents and last for a long time
- Consider energy usage when buying new electrical appliances, most home appliances come with an energy rating
- Install home insulation, consider switching to a more efficient heating system like a ground source heat pump, and adding double glazing if you don't have it, and can. There are currently several ways you can access funding for these changes - find out more on the Energy Saving Trust website.

Green Homes Grants

We've secured funding from the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme – and you may be eligible for up to £5,000 towards the cost of improvements. See page 26 for more information.

Protecting the air we breathe

Air pollution is a problem that affects us all but is especially harmful for children and people with pre-existing lung conditions like asthma. This is now even more important while we cope with the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are lots of different pollutants that can negatively affect air quality. The most common sources include smoke from fires and vehicle emissions – and we all have a responsibility to try and lessen our environmental impact.

As part of our Local Plan and our Climate Change Action Plan, we're working to drive down levels of air pollution in the borough, and we regularly monitor local air quality.

Action has been taken at local hotspots. In 2015 the area around Church Street in Brimington was identified as having high levels of nitrogen dioxide. We introduced an Air Quality Management Area to tackle this, and pollution levels are monitored.

How can you help?

Improving air quality is something that benefits everyone in our community – safeguarding our health and our environment.

Taking small steps to change our habits and behaviour can lower pollution levels. For example:

- **Try walking, cycling or using public transport when travelling around the borough as often as you can. We're committed to working with our local partners to make this even easier in future**
- **Avoid driving through the Brimington Air Quality Management Area to help lower pollution levels**
- **Don't light bonfires and use smokeless fuels if lighting a fire at home to reduce smoke pollution.**

Report smoke pollution on My Chesterfield **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/mychesterfield**

Recycling in Chesterfield

Together we recycled more than **17,000 tonnes** of rubbish last year but could you help Chesterfield divert even more waste from landfill this year?

40,433 tonnes

Total household waste collected 2019/20

17,537 tonnes

Tonnage recycled and composted 2019/20

Over Easter and May there are several Bank Holidays which will affect Monday collection dates. Check your bin calendar or the table below to see if your collection is affected.

Normal bin collection day	Revised bin collection day
Friday 2 April (Good Friday)	No change
Monday 5 April	Saturday 3 April
Monday 3 May	Saturday 1 May
Monday 31 May	Saturday 29 May

Lots of everyday items can be recycled in your blue bin or sent for composting in your green bin. Use the handy guide below to help you recycle as much of your waste as possible.

Right stuff - right bin

Blue bin
- All plastic bottles/tubs
- Paper and card
- Tins, cans and foil
- Glass bottles and jars

Green bin
- Grass cuttings, twigs
- Weeds and leaves
- Cooked/uncooked food
- Fruit and vegetables

Black bin
- Non-recyclable waste
- Polystyrene
- Plastic bags and film
- Nappies (bagged)

You can also sign up for your own online My Chesterfield account for information about bin collections – visit **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/mychesterfield**

Get careers information on My Future

Young people are being given a helping hand to build a future career as part of an innovative online hub – virtually meeting with employers to find out more about local opportunities.

Young people are being given a helping hand to build a future career as part of an innovative online hub – virtually meeting with employers, education and training providers to find out more about local opportunities available.

The My Future platform was launched in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, to ensure young people still had access to key information about local careers and skills, despite the ongoing restrictions.

Created by the council in partnership with Destination Chesterfield and D2N2 Careers Hub last summer, local businesses have been supporting the project – hosting events and information sessions.

One of the first events was focused on the construction industry and looked at the wide range of career opportunities available.

Matt Bust is Business Support Manager at Robert Woodhead Ltd, part of the team delivering the Northern Gateway Enterprise Centre. He leads on the company's social value commitments on the project, and spoke at one of the events. He said: "Being involved in the MyFuture platform has been fantastic, it has helped us share lots of information with students and young people, in new digital ways. We have been able to build our profile and promote Chesterfield as a great place to work."

James Brand, D2N2 LEP board member and Managing Director of United Cast Bar, a Chesterfield-based business which is featured in the engineering and manufacturing zone on the platform, added:

"My Future is a great opportunity for businesses to reach out to young people during these challenging times.

"The platform offers real support and guidance to school leavers who have been unable to access the careers information they would normally have had, to help them make informed decisions about their future."

Councillor Amanda Serjeant, Deputy Leader of the council, said: "It is vital that young people can access all the information they need to plan for their future in such a challenging time. I'm proud of the work our team have done to deliver this platform and other support for young people throughout the pandemic. I hope many young people will use the data to inform their career decisions and plan their future in our borough."

The state-of-the-art virtual gateway allows young people to:

- Meet local employers and explore apprenticeship opportunities
- Work with training providers to learn about and access courses that are available
- Virtually visit post-16 institutions including colleges and universities
- Learn about local apprenticeship and employment opportunities.

To find out more visit **www.MyFuture.org.uk**

Meet local employers and explore apprenticeship opportunities
Virtually visit post 16 institutions including colleges and universities
Learn about local employment opportunities
- about careers in construction and the built environment with students and young people, in
To find out more visit www.MyFuture.org.uk

Supporting young women into construction

Young women in Chesterfield are being encouraged to consider a career in construction as part of a new mentoring scheme which has been launched in the borough.

The council has teamed up with development partners, Robert Woodhead Ltd and Whittam Cox Architects, to create the new initiative – designed to promote more female leaders in the industry.

Mentors from the companies are providing careers advice and guidance to encourage young women who may just be starting out in work – or who may be looking to retrain – to consider the range of opportunities on offer within construction.

Councillor Tricia Gilby, Leader of the council, said: "This programme is a great example of how by working with our partners we can strengthen the links between education and business, which will help ensure that more school leavers are developing the skills they need to enter the workplace.

"Working with young women in sectors where they are underrepresented is key to ensuring our success. They currently make up around 14 per cent of professional roles within the construction industry, and this number is set to rise. Misconceptions about gender specific roles are diminishing, with a growing number of women choosing a career in construction."

By linking with the D2N2 North Derbyshire Careers Hub and Chesterfield's Property and Construction Forum, the programme offers school and college students the opportunity to work with female leaders from across a broad range of disciplines.

Teresa Westwood, Managing Director of Robert Woodhead Ltd, is one of the first mentors. She said: "I see this as a fantastic opportunity to highlight how many varied roles there are within the construction industry. There is a cliché that it's all site-based trades like plumbers, electricians and bricklayers – yes, we need more women in those trades but there is also so much more.

"It's our chance to work with the council to give something back and share skills and knowledge to

Chesterfield Borough Council named among **Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers**

Our work to support young people starting their careers has been recognised on the national stage – with the council being named as one of the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers in England.

The council was placed as number 82 in the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers, which recognises the country's leading apprenticeship employers.

More than 40 apprentices are currently employed by the council as part of our commitment to developing skills among young people, building on the successful 'Apprentice Town' initiative.

Councillor Jean Innes, cabinet member for business transformation and customers, said: "I'm delighted that we have been recognised in this way for the work we do with apprentices.

"We were the first town in the UK to declare itself an 'Apprentice Town' and we are committed to ensuring that young people in Chesterfield can build the skills and careers they want, which is key to ensuring that we are a thriving borough for the future.

"We want Chesterfield to be a town where young people, businesses and parents think 'apprenticeship-first' and we're proud to lead by example.

"We have more than 40 apprentices working across the organisation in a wide range of disciplines including project management, legal services and commercial services."

Paul Davis, who is taking part in an apprenticeship programme with the council working towards a CIPFA Professional Qualification (Level 7), said: "I wanted to do an apprenticeship with the council because it allowed me to study further and to progress within my area of work.

"It gave me a greater understanding of local authority finances and management which I could apply directly to my everyday work whilst also enhancing my future prospects with a globally recognised qualification.

"I would definitely recommend apprenticeships to other people as they are great way to learn and it provides you the opportunity to progress further in your career with the added benefit of not being left with a heavy burden of student debt at the end."

Chesterfield Borough Council launched 'Apprentice Town' in 2017. It is run in partnership with Destination Chesterfield, the local business community, apprenticeship providers and The Apprentice Town steering group in order to raise awareness of local opportunities.

Visit **www.chesterfield.co.uk/apprenticeships** to find out more.

Green space officers, Thomas Chedgey and Rob Falconer, show off the flag from the viewing space at the top of the cricket pavilion in Queen's Park.

Chesterfield celebrates as parks and green spaces win Green Flag Award

Our parks have once again been recognised as among the very best in the country after being awarded the prestigious Green Flag for the fourteenth time.

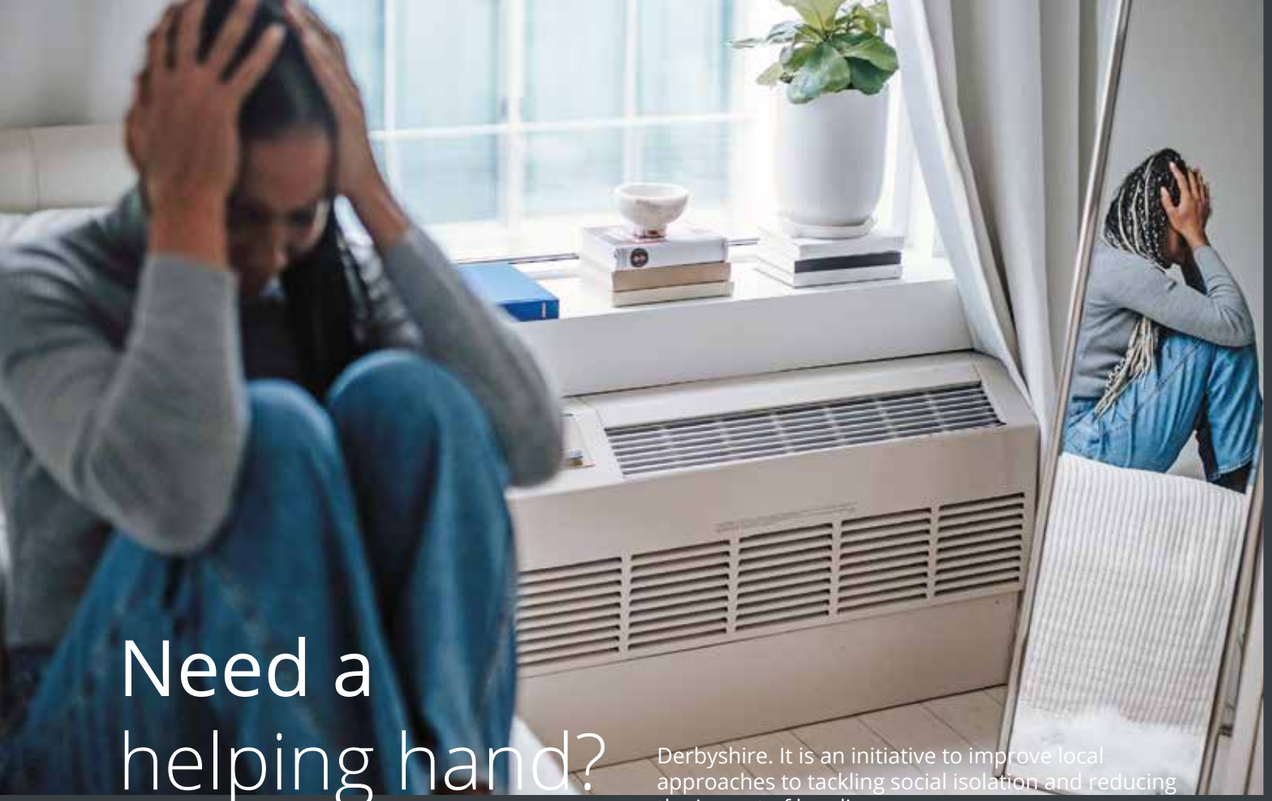
Queen's Park, Holmebrook Valley Country Park, Poolsbrook Country Park, Eastwood Park and the gardens at Chesterfield and District Crematorium have all been awarded the honour and we have proudly raised the Green Flag in all of these sites – an international mark of quality green spaces.

The impressive accolade is awarded to sites which boast the highest possible environmental standards, are beautifully maintained and have excellent visitor facilities.

Councillor Jill Mannion-Brunt, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "I'm delighted that we have maintained our Green Flag Awards in these brilliant parks and green spaces, which are so important to local people. Last year showed how vital they are.

"This recognition really means a lot to the team who work so hard to maintain our beautiful facilities."

The Green Flag Award scheme is managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.



Need a helping hand?

As a community, we've faced unimaginable challenges over the past year and there may be times when many of us feel alone, vulnerable or isolated.

No-one should feel alone, and we're encouraging anyone who feels isolated to reach out to one of the many organisations offering help and support.

Councillor Jill Mannion-Brunt, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "Tackling social isolation and supporting our residents to overcome the impact of the pandemic is a priority for Chesterfield Borough Council and is at the heart of our Covid-19 recovery plan.

"Many people have experienced loneliness during social isolation throughout the pandemic – especially those who have limited access to technology – so we're really pleased to be supporting local projects and looking into new initiatives which will help promote social connectedness for our residents."

One such project is the 'Feeling Connected' initiative, led by Derbyshire Voluntary Action with support from the councils across North Derbyshire. It is an initiative to improve local approaches to tackling social isolation and reducing the impact of loneliness.

Jacqui Willis, Chief Executive of Derbyshire Voluntary Action, said: "Most people, young and old, feel lonely from time to time. This is normal, and even healthy. It can be a prompt for action, a reminder to make contact with other people and to create or reaffirm connections.

"Where it can become a problem is if people become isolated through circumstances beyond their control, and if feelings of loneliness become entrenched, or persist for a long time."

Project leaders are now asking people to get in touch if they have ideas on how to help the community feel more connected. Led by Derbyshire Voluntary Action's Social Connectedness Development Worker, Debbie Fennell, the project's first target areas are Stonegravels, St Helens, Whittington Moor, Dunston, New Whittington and Old Whittington.

But no matter where you live in Chesterfield, if you have ideas about keeping your community connected, call Debbie on 07547 342251, email debbie@dva.org.uk or find her on Facebook (search for FeelingConnected).

There are also many other organisations you can contact too if you are feeling isolated.

- Silverline - a free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people. Call 0800 470 80 90
- Age UK Derby and Derbyshire - an independent charity, offering support and services to older people. Call 01773 768240
- Derbyshire Carers Telephone Befriending Service – support for carers who are lonely and isolated with little or no contact from family and friends. Call 01773 833833
- The Volunteer Centre Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire - Elderfriends and Making Time – a befriending project to support lonely and socially isolated adults. Due to increasing demand the service is currently limited to people aged 50 and over. Call 01246 276777

We've also put together some tips that will help you improve your mental wellbeing:

- Establish a routine – this helps us to have better physical and mental health as well as helping to keep our body clock working, which supports us to have restful sleep, reducing stress and anxiety
- Explore ways to pass the time to keep your mind stimulated – try arts and crafts, writing, puzzles, reading, or playing music
- Get natural light – if you can, go out for a short walk every day or sit by the window
- Think about your diet – eat regularly and stay hydrated. A balanced diet can help your mood and good nutrition boosts the immune system
- Find ways to connect with others – keep in touch by telephone, text, video calling or writing letters.

Don't forget that the council's Careline and support services are here to help people live at home independently. See page seven for more information.

Staveley homes get a facelift

Residents are benefitting from work to modernise their homes as part of a housing improvement project by the council.

Properties at Pullman Close, Mallard Court, Leander Court and Aston Court in Staveley are receiving a facelift – with extensive internal and external improvements – as part of the council's commitment to deliver excellent quality homes that meet the needs of local people.

Carried out by the council's contractor, Fortem, work started on site in mid-2020, with the homes at Pullman Close being the first to benefit from a facelift.

This first phase of modernisation has progressed well and on schedule, with the homes all benefiting from new doors and windows – helping to give the area a fresh and modern look.

Councillor Chris Ludlow, cabinet member for housing, said: "It's great to see the modernisation projects at Staveley progressing well.

"A key part of our housing strategy is to make sure that our homes are of excellent quality and set within a modern and desirable environment. This project will help us ensure that homes in Staveley meet the expectations of our residents with regard to accessibility, affordable warmth and security."

Attentions have now turned to Mallard Court and Leander Court where refurbishment on the homes has now started. The team has been busy stripping out the building and has cleared all areas ready for landscaping. New walls are also being installed to provide new layouts for the properties.

Councillor Ludlow added: "Once complete, the improvements to Mallard Court and Leander Court will ensure we can offer modern, affordable and attractive housing for older people in Staveley for the future."

Local homeowners and landlords urged to **apply for Green Homes Grants**

Homeowners and residential landlords in Chesterfield are being urged to apply for funding that could help to make energy efficient improvements to their properties and reduce their bills.

The council has successfully secured funding from the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme and wants residents to get in touch to see how the funding could help keep their homes warm.

The money can be used to help cover the cost of a wide range of retrofit measures, including roof and wall insulation.

The council will be using the funding to support owner occupiers and landlords who meet the following criteria:

- Your residential property is situated in Chesterfield
- You own your own home (including long-leaseholders and shared ownership) or you are a residential landlord in the private rented sector
- The homeowner or tenant have a combined gross annual household income of less than £30,000
- The property has a low energy performance rating. For example, the property has an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating in band E, F or G, or does not have an EPC rating.

Further details on eligibility and how to apply can be found at: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/green-homes-grant**

Councillor Chris Ludlow, cabinet member for housing, said: "The retrofit measures you can make to your homes with this funding are really effective ways to help keep your home warmer while saving money on energy bills.

"This funding will not only help home owners and residential landlords make improvements to their homes but will also help tackle the ongoing issue of fuel poverty in Chesterfield while also ensuring that the we can meet our objective of creating a carbon neutral Borough by 2050."

A national scheme is also available to those who may not qualify for funding from the council. More information on the national scheme is available at: **www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme.**

Providing new homes for families in Chesterfield

New council homes are being built in the borough as part of our commitment to provide more affordable homes for local families.

We're on track to create over 100 extra council homes in the town by 2023, and these properties will be made available to households on the council housing register.

Projects include:

- Ten properties at Heaton Court in Brampton and four homes at Manor Drive, Brimington *(shown below)* – completed in early 2021
- 21 properties at the former Brockwell Court site, expected to be completed later this year.

We're also buying six new build properties on a new development in Brimington to provide more affordable homes for local people – on target to be completed in June 2021.

Councillor Chris Ludlow, cabinet member for housing, said: "It's really important for us that people looking for a new home have a choice of good quality and modern homes to rent, so we're really pleased to be making more homes available for families across the borough."

As well as the council increasing the supply of affordable housing, local housing associations (also known as Registered Providers of social housing) are also actively acquiring and developing new homes in Chesterfield, with around 180 new affordable properties expected on a number of sites across the borough in the next two years. The majority of these properties will be let to households on the council's housing register through nominations to the Housing Association.

A smaller proportion of the properties will be made available for affordable home ownership and marketed either directly by the housing associations or through a help to buy agent. You can find out more at **www.helptobuyagent2.org.uk/help-to-buy-schemes** or by contacting the local housing associations when the properties are nearing completion.

For information on the council's housing register, visit: **www.chesterfield.gov.uk/housing/get-a-property**

Improving your council home

If you live in a council house and want to make improvements to your home, we're on hand to help with information and advice.

As your landlord, our team can guide you on what you can and can't do – we're happy for you to make changes as long as your proposals are reasonable and will not affect your neighbours.

All we ask is that you to contact using the details below and describe the changes that you would like to make to your home, including a basic drawing of the proposed alterations.

A few examples of the things that you should get permission for are:

- Removal and replacement of doors
- Changing bathroom or kitchen fixtures
- Putting in a shower, central heating or heating appliances
- Decorating the outside of your home
- Building a garage or shed
- Laying a drive or hard standing
- Fencing

Some improvements may need building control and planning permission before they can go ahead, so please be aware that there may be a cost involved to apply for these consents. We will be able to provide you with more information about this when you get in touch.

Please also be aware that when permission has been granted, the responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of these alterations remains with you as the tenant.

More information about making changes to your home can be found in your Tenant's Handbook (you can find an online version on our website – search for 'tenant's handbook').

If you would like to make changes please email repair.requests@chesterfield.gov.uk or write to us at Commercial Services - Building Services, Stonegravels Depot, Old Brick Works Lane, Chesterfield, S41 7LF.

Chesterfield Area Walking Festival returns for 2021

Residents are being encouraged to step out and enjoy the sights and sounds of the borough when the annual Chesterfield Area Walking Festival makes a welcome return in 2021.

From gentle strolls, to family walks and hikes for those more experienced, the festival offers something for everyone.

There will be around 40 walks to take part in – showcasing the beautiful countryside around Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire.

Last year's event was unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic, and to make sure the 2021 festival can be delivered safely, ticket numbers will be reduced for each walk (but remember there are also some great self-led walks available online at **www.visitchesterfield.info/walking**).

The festival, which is jointly organised by Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service, Bolsover District and North East Derbyshire District councils, will run from Saturday 8 May to Sunday 16 May 2021.

Images from 2018.

Find out more and book your tickets at **www.chesterfieldwalkingfestival.co.uk**

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)**

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.

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

Careline - 0300 323 0076

Homelessness prevention team - (01246) 345825

homelessness.prevention@chesterfield.gov.uk

Homelessness (out of hours) - 0845 6058 058

or (01629) 532600

On the Move – for all council house waiting list and allocations queries

Visit the website at: **www.onthemove-cbc.org.uk**

(01246) 345700

onthemove@chesterfield.gov.uk

Neighbourhoods team - (01246) 345071

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

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

Are we accessible to you?

كيا ہم تک آپ کی رسائی ہے ؟ اگر نہیں تو ہمیں بتایئے!

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**

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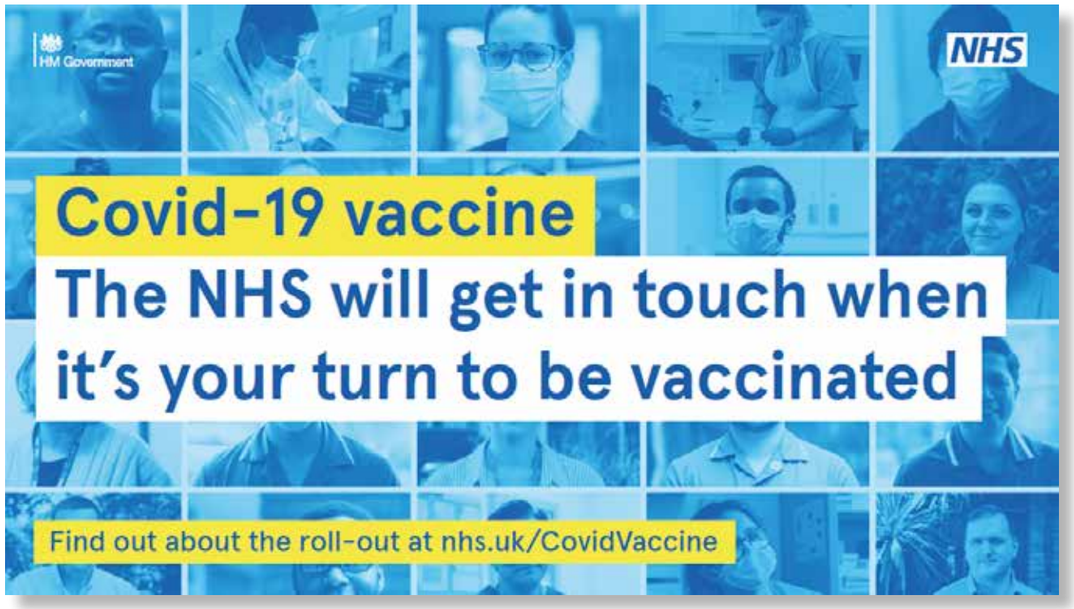


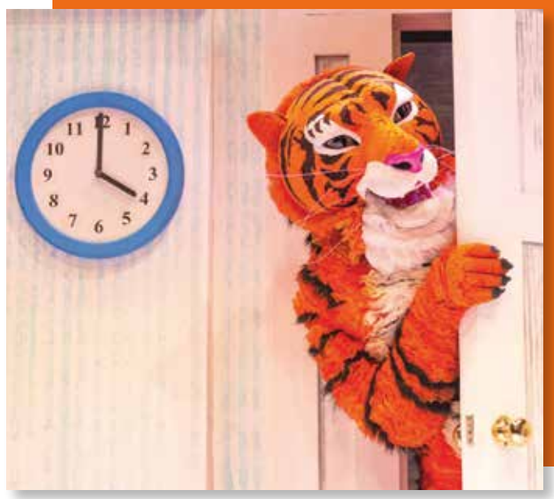
Chesterfield Theatres - an update

There are some great shows planned to take place at the Pomegranate and Winding Wheel Theatres later in 2021.

Some of the highlights include a return for fantastic stand up acts including Ed Byrne, Russell Kane and John Bishop.

There are also some brilliant shows and plays like The Haunting of Blaine Manor and Father Brown – Murderer in the Mirror or the hilarious, Friends: A Musical Parody.

There are also some popular family friendly performances including The Tiger Who Came to Tea *(shown left)* and of course the pantomime Beauty and the Beast.



We will ensure we follow the latest Government guidance to ensure your theatre experience is safe.

You can find out more about these exciting performances taking place later this year, book your tickets or make donations to the theatres at **www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk.**

Save time and **do it online** - a great way to access our services

You can now access a range of council services – at a time that suits you using our new digital platform, **My Chesterfield.**

Sign up today to manage a range of council services – any time, any where from your home computer, laptop, tablet or mobile phone:

- **Manage your Council Tax bills and payments, sign up for e-billing and direct debits**
- **View bin collection days**
- **Report an issue, such as noise nuisance**
- **See information about your local councillor**
- **Tell us you've moved home**
- **Report something that needs cleaning up on a street, road or in a park.**

www.chesterfield.gov.uk/mychesterfield

CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL