

the
WOKING
magazine



Leading the way, Woking's
new administration

Meet Woking's new Mayor,
Cllr Saj Hussain

Summer 2022

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Introduction

Welcome to the summer edition of The Woking Magazine. Your window into the borough.

We've seen a lot of change since the magazine's previous edition. Most significantly is the election of a new political administration. In this edition, we introduce you to the new Leader of Woking Borough Council, Cllr Ann-Marie Barker, who explains her key priorities and what the future holds.

Additionally, we welcome new Mayor of Woking, Cllr Saj Hussain, who has already been busy out and about engaging with the community at many events across the borough.

On Monday 25 July, Woking Borough Council launches its much-anticipated masterplan for Woking Town Centre consultation. Residents and key stakeholders can have their say on the new framework that will guide future development in the town centre, as part of the comprehensive 12-week consultation.

With the warm days upon us, Jubilee Square has been transformed into a garden area to once again host Summer in the Square! Visitors can enjoy a range of free activities including table tennis and giant chess, or simply relax in the deckchairs whilst watching your favourite sport and family films on the big screen.

As Ukrainian families resettle in Woking, we speak to former Syrian refugee, Mohammad, about his experiences of arriving in Woking and about his new life and his advice for others resettling in the United Kingdom.

Not forgetting our local heroes, find out more about some outstanding members of Woking's community who were recognised at the Mayor's Civic Reception.

And it's the perfect time to get out and about and enjoy nature. We take a look at the hidden gem that is Hoe Valley Park. This edition also sees the return of our 'What's on' events calendar to help you plan your summer diary.

I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Andy Denner

Editor
The Woking Magazine

#WEAREWOKING

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Contact details

The Woking Magazine is compiled and published three times a year by Woking Borough Council. A total of 50,000 copies are printed and delivered free to households and many public information points across the borough.

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If you wish to **advertise** in The Woking Magazine, please call Andy Denner on 01483 743026, or email andy.denner@woking.gov.uk

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Front cover: Leader of Woking Borough Council, Cllr Ann-Marie Barker

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Kick start summer with a spin on our brand-new cycle track

An exciting new upgraded cycle track in Goldsworth Park was officially opened by Leader of the Council, Cllr Ann-Marie Barker and Mayor of Woking, Cllr Saj Hussain.

Since opening, the track has been enjoyed by young people and cycling enthusiasts from across the borough and beyond, getting active and having fun with friends.

The new hybrid facility includes a fully asphalted pump track, which is a circuit of small mounds to help cyclists generate momentum, an all-weather mountain bike circuit and a grass circuit.

This upgrade was possible thanks to £60,000 funding from British Cycling, which was match funded to the tune of £60,000 by Woking Borough Council.

The cycle track is open to all ages and abilities, whilst on Saturday mornings Woking and Charlotteville Cycling Clubs have exclusive access to the track to help club members refine their riding skills.

When using the track we encourage all users to ride safely and with respect to those around you. We hope you enjoy the new facility!



Help Surrey Fire and Rescue Service say #BurgerOff to wildfires

In April, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended the first significant wildfire of the year, destroying around 750 acres of Surrey and lasting for three days.

Wildfires are sadly becoming more and more common and can cause devastating damage to our countryside, the rare species in Surrey heathland, and people's lives and livelihoods. Although the cause of the April fire is unknown there are steps that we can all take to prevent damage to our beautiful green spaces, and devastation to local wildlife.

It is also important to take your litter home with you. Discarded items such as glass bottles can start wildfires as they magnify the heat of the sun.

So what can you do?

Residents are being asked to say #BurgerOff to disposable BBQs and instead 'pack a picnic'. Disposable BBQs can take hours to cool down to a safe level, and the risk of starting a wildfire is simply not worth it.

Some sites in Surrey have a Public Service Protection Order in place, which means if you are found using a disposable BBQ you could be served a fixed notice penalty of £100.

Find out more about how you can keep Surrey safe from wildfire by visiting www.surreycc.gov.uk/fire



Still time to grab a jab!

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 and going for your booster jab when invited is still the single most effective measure you can take to protect yourself against coronavirus.

FastHeal Pharmacy is still operating a vaccination service from United Reformed Church, White Rose Lane. Now offering vaccinations to children as young as five years old (by appointment only), the centre is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, between 9am and 5pm.



Volunteers outside United Reformed Church vaccine centre

The centre offers walk-in appointments (for 12+ year olds, not guaranteed at peak times), and bookings through www.nhs.uk or by calling 119 for booster vaccinations, and first or second doses.

This autumn, FastHeal Pharmacy will also offer the flu jab to eligible residents. For more information about the services offered by FastHeal, please visit www.fasthealpharmacy.com

Vaccination requirements and opening hours regularly change. So it's always best to check the latest requirements before visiting a vaccination centre. Search 'Surrey Heartlands vaccination centres' online.

Summer waste and recycling collections

Waste and recycling collections won't change this summer, as collection crews will be working over the August bank holiday.

So if your bin collection day falls on Monday 29 August, please present your bin out as normal.

For more information, visit www.jointwastesolutions.org



Woking Litter Warriors out in full force

If you've ever fancied a spot of litter picking, why not join this new group making a difference in our borough.

Last year in the midst of coronavirus lockdowns, Lauren Horncastle and a friend were shocked by the large volume of rubbish they came across on their regular (socially distanced!) walks and decided to take the matter into their own hands.

Aiming to tidy up their local area and inspire others, the Woking Litter Warriors (WLW) were formed.

Today, WLW has over 100 active members all banding together to make Woking a cleaner and safer place to be, either through organised litter picks or by arranging their own.

So far litter picks have taken place at St Johns Lye, Poole Road, Lockfield Drive, Westfield Road and Kestrel Way, Horsell where they collected a staggering 42 bags of litter, finding an array of items from garden fairies to rollerblades and golf balls, as well as general household rubbish.

The group's work has caught the eye of many sponsors, including fast food giant McDonalds whose local franchise has supplied essential litter picking equipment, local printing firm Optichrome, and

Experience Events (a London based events management firm) for branded bibs and materials.

If you're interested in joining Woking Litter Warriors, follow [@WokingLitterWarriors](https://www.instagram.com/WokingLitterWarriors) on Instagram, join Facebook group **Woking Litter Warriors (WLW)**, or email Wokinglitterwarriors@gmail.com



New report reveals what happened to Surrey's waste

If you've ever wondered what happens to your recycling and rubbish once it's collected, now you can find out.

The Surrey Environment Partnership's (SEP) new report reveals what happened to Surrey's waste in 2020-21 and contains detailed information on the waste that was collected, what happened to it and where it went to be treated or recycled.

In 2020-21, Surrey had the third best recycling rate of all 30 two-tier local authority areas in England. 55.1% of its waste was recycled with the rest treated as rubbish. Of the rubbish that was collected, only 3.8% of it was sent to landfill, less than half the England average of 8.0%.

You can read the full report by visiting www.surreyep.org.uk

Woking's Neighbourhood Team joins forces with local community on Safer Streets project

Visitors to the Basingstoke Canal may have noticed a few changes to the area after Woking's Safer Neighbourhood team joined forces with the local community to tackle safety issues in the area.

In late 2021, Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner Lisa Townsend secured £175,000 of funding from the Home Office's Safer Streets project to tackle safety issues along the canal.

New CCTV cameras have been installed after a number of reports of indecent exposures and suspicious incidents, particularly against women and girls. The 13-mile stretch of canal has also been cleared of graffiti as it was contributing to some parts of the canal path feeling unsafe, as reflected in responses to Surrey Police's Call It Out Survey in 2021.



Additionally, the funding has been invested in electronic patrol bikes and in cutting down overgrown shrubbery to increase visibility and space along the towpath.

The project was a joint venture between Woking Borough Council, Surrey Police and the Basingstoke Canal Authority to improve feelings of safety along the canal.

Countywide service makes sure No One Left Behind

With many residents looking for financial, health and welfare support in these challenging times, a new countywide welfare hub has been launched.

As part of the No One Left Behind project, the online hub aims to signpost residents to relevant help and support across the county. The hub works in conjunction with Surrey County Council's customer services team offering a more thorough advice service for any financial, health or welfare concerns residents may have.

Surrey County Council has also launched a new community helpline number, **0300 200 1008**, that residents can call for help, advice and support.

For more information about the No One Left Behind initiative, please visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/welfare

Do you live next to a watercourse?

If you own a property alongside a watercourse, there are certain rights and responsibilities relating to the stretch of water that's within your property boundary.

An ordinary watercourse includes all rivers, streams, ditches, cuts, sluices and passages through which water flows which do not form part of a main river.

Known as a 'riparian owner', one of the main responsibilities is accepting water from the section of watercourse owned by your upstream neighbour and transferring this, together with drainage from your own property to your neighbour immediately downstream.

Woking Borough Council has been granted the authority to operate land drainage byelaws within the borough. The byelaws outline what landowners must do when undertaking works in, under, over or within nine metres of an ordinary watercourse.

To conduct works which comply with the land drainage byelaws, consent must be issued by Woking Borough Council. All applications should provide a detailed overview of the proposed works. Consent will be refused if it is deemed that the works could cause an increased flood risk, or there is an unacceptable risk to the natural environment and conservation.

To find out more, visit www.woking.gov.uk/landdrainagebyelaws

New Beginnings returns to The Lightbox

An exhibition at The Lightbox this autumn will showcase unique works of art by women from the Women's Support Centre.

Featuring artwork by women from across the borough and from prisons in Surrey, the annual exhibition will run from **Wednesday 26 October to Sunday 27 November 2022**.

The artwork will express the emotions and experiences conjured by the theme 'masks' based on the women's personal experiences. The New Beginnings project aims to develop the communication skills and confidence of the women involved, and help boost their self-esteem.

Many of the artists are receiving support from the Women's Support Centre in Woking, which helps women who are at risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system. The centre supports women facing difficult circumstances in order to reintegrate back into society and lead a more stable life.

The New Beginnings art awards are supported by The Lightbox and Woking Borough Council. For more information, please visit www.thelightbox.co.uk



Giving carers a voice

Do you provide care or support to a relative, friend or neighbour? Are you getting the support you need to carry on caring? Would you like to help improve services and support for carers in Surrey?

If you provide unpaid help or support to anyone who couldn't manage without that help, then you are a carer and Surrey Healthwatch would like to hear from you.

The group wants to hear about your experiences of the support you have received or if you have had problems accessing services. All feedback gathered will assist service providers to know what they are doing well and what might need to change.

To share your experiences or for more information call **0303 303 0023** (SMS **07592 787533**), email enquiries@healthwatchesurrey.co.uk or visit www.healthwatchesurrey.co.uk/feedback-centre

Have you considered volunteering?

Volunteer Woking offers a wide variety of local volunteering opportunities making it easier than you think to find something that makes a difference and fits around your interests, skills and lifestyle.

Whether you have an hour a week to spare, an evening a month, or you would like to support a one-off event, there's something for everyone. Here are just a few of our latest opportunities:

Volunteer reading tutor (Let's Read charity)

Help young people with poor reading skills progress using synthetic phonics. Working with local primary schools where support will make the biggest difference to students. Tuesday and Thursday mornings weekly during term time.

Charity trustee (York Road Project)

The homelessness charity is keen to recruit trustees who are unconnected to the project but who have compassion for those they support.

Customer Service Volunteer (British Red Cross - Woking)

Providing wheelchairs and other equipment to help get people moving again after illness or injury. For a few hours per week (weekday only) in shifts for at least six months.

Home visiting volunteer (Home-Start Runnymede and Woking)

Help local parents with young children by providing practical and emotional support. For a few hours a week.

Interested? Find out more about these and many other volunteering opportunities by getting in touch. Email volunteer@woking.gov.uk, call **01483 743851**, visit www.volunteerwoking.org.uk or follow [@volunteerwoking](https://twitter.com/volunteerwoking).

Are you involved in a local community group or charity?

If you are looking to raise funds for a group's activities, Volunteer Woking can help! For more information email funding@woking.gov.uk, visit www.volunteerwoking.org.uk/funding and search 'funding' or call **01483 743890**, Tuesdays to Thursdays.

Let Start Up Woking take your idea to the next level



WOKING WORKS

Start Up Woking is an initiative by Woking Works, providing a vibrant network of support specifically designed to help start-ups, micro-enterprises and small businesses from Woking.

For almost a decade, Start Up Woking has been supporting local entrepreneurs to get their ideas off the ground by providing one-to-one advice to businesses in their first three years of trading, including initiatives that are yet to trade.

Success stories include sustainable refill store, Bare + Fair, which came to Start Up Woking with a great concept that needed development. Now firmly established in

Woking town centre, Bare + Fair offers a wide range of eco-friendly refills, sustainable goods and friendly advice on greener living. A true asset to the town!

Woking Works is a partnership between Woking Borough Council, key local firms, independent advisors and local commerce organisations working together to support people as they live, work, and play in the borough. It also offers an ongoing programme of events to businesses across Woking and the surrounding area.

To find out how Woking Works could help your business grow, or to simply discover a new local business, visit www.wokingworks.com

Woking residents risk missing out on free emergency support

Residents are being urged to check if they or someone they know can join UK Power Networks' Priority Services Register.

Emergencies on the electricity network do not happen often, but when they do, they can be an especially worrying time for households in vulnerable circumstances. The register allows UK Power Networks to direct support to where it's needed most.

Joining the register helps to target support to residents in need, so people can plan their lives while engineers work on the issue. Those on the register can receive free independent advice on energy if they are worried about paying their fuel bills or need help to keep their home warm this winter.

Over 65s, families with children under five, those who rely on medical equipment or with a disability, people who are hearing, sight or speech impaired, patients leaving hospital and people with any physical or mental health condition are all entitled to join the two million households already registered.

To register for the free service, visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priorityservices

Water companies also provide free extra support to vulnerable households.

- To sign up for Affinity Water's Register, visit www.affinitywater.co.uk/priorityservices, call **0345 357 2406**, or email advancecareteam@affinitywater.co.uk
- To sign up for Thames Water's Register, visit www.thames-psr.org, ring **0800 009 3652**, or email ecs@thameswater.co.uk

Could you be a councillor?

Local people looking to represent their community and help shape Woking's future are invited to an informal seminar to find out more about becoming a local councillor.

The seminar, hosted at the Civic Offices, aims to give an overview of how Woking Borough Council operates, the various roles and responsibilities and what skills are essential to becoming a successful local councillor.

Current councillors will be on hand to discuss their experiences and answer any questions about the influential role. The seminar, hosted in the Council Chamber, will take place at **7pm on Wednesday 14 September 2022.**

To register your interest, please contact Frank Jeffrey, Woking Borough Council's Head of Democratic Services, on **01483 743012** or email frank.jeffrey@woking.gov.uk



TEDxWoking is back - and it's live!

The popular and stimulating TEDxWoking event returns on Thursday 10 November 2022, as live audiences are welcomed back.

To date, TEDxWoking has fascinated its audiences with a broad range of captivating talks covering areas such as transformation, innovation, discovery, collaboration and resilience.

This year, speakers are currently gearing up to share their ideas worth spreading about 'our future'. Given the global upheaval of recent times, this should inspire some truly thought-provoking concepts.

To be one of 100 exclusive ticketholders for this special event, sign up for alerts at www.tedxwoking.com

Can't make it in person? Don't worry, TEDxWoking will be live streamed. All previous presentations can be found by visiting www.tedxwoking.com



EV charge points go live in Woking

Twenty new on-street electric vehicle (EV) charge points are now live in the borough, as part of Surrey's on-street electric vehicle charging infrastructure roll-out.

This means drivers using EVs can now access charge points at each of the following locations.

- Church Street East, Oriental Road, Maybury Road and Montgomery Road, Woking
- Lavender Park Road, West Byfleet.



The 22 kilowatt charging points will charge up to 80% of an EV battery in only a couple of hours, at a cost of 30p per kilowatt hour (kWh) (based on a Nissan Leaf 2018 with a battery capacity of 40 kWh).

These charge points are the first phase of the roll-out of public EV charge points funded by Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership, Surrey County Council, and Guildford, Spelthorne, Waverley and Woking Borough Councils.

These first phase charge points will be assessed to understand key issues relating to on-street charging and the impacts of installing charge points such as the cost, policies, public support and maintenance. It will also provide first-hand experience of installation and analysis of usage patterns.

Please visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/electricvehicles to find out more about the roll-out, view an interactive map of charge points in the county, to request a charge point in your area and to comment on the new Surrey Transport Plan.

Woking comes together to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Hundreds of visitors joined the Mayor of Woking for an hour-long ceremony featuring music composed specifically to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the lighting of a beacon.

Piper Elysée Spacie, from Gordon's School, performed 'Diu Regnare', meaning 'Long to Reign' in Latin, and had everyone clapping to her version of 'Scotland the Brave', whilst fellow pupil Jess Fowler had the honour of announcing the lighting of the beacon with a bugle call entitled 'Majesty'.

The moment the Mayor of Woking, Cllr Saj Hussain, lit the beacon, an 80-person community choir burst into song, performing 'A Life Lived with Grace'. It was then the turn of the audience which, led by singer Simon Greenhill, joined together to sing 'Sweet Caroline'.



Visit www.celebratewoking.info to view the gallery of images from this very special weekend.

Leading the way – Woking’s new political leadership

Following the Liberal Democrats success at the recent local elections, The Woking Magazine caught up with new Leader of the Council, Cllr Ann-Marie Barker, to uncover the woman behind the yellow jacket and her ambitious plans for the future.

After more than a decade in opposition, the Liberal Democrats recently gained control of Woking Borough Council. They now have 16 of the 30 seats following May’s local election compared with eight for the Conservatives, three for Labour and three for the Independents.

Originally hailing from the north-west of England, Cllr Barker has been a local resident for over 25 years, having made Horsell her home with husband, David, their two daughters and Jack Russell cross, Daisy.

“Having spent a number of years living in outer London, David and I were looking for change. At the time, I was working for SPSS, a research software company, in Chertsey. Woking was a great location for us both, ideal for bringing up a family, whilst retaining great transport links” said Cllr Barker.

It was whilst at university that Cllr Barker developed her passion and values that have guided her political career: “I’ve always had a desire to challenge the status quo and believe in opportunity for all, having been the first person in my family to go to university. My first involvement in national politics was the SDP’s Greenwich victory in 1987. Ten years later I arrived in Woking, just before Labour won the 1997 General Election.”

First elected to Woking Borough Council in 2004, Cllr Barker has represented Goldsworth Park since 2016, rising to become Leader of the local Liberal Democrat party in 2018. During her time as a councillor, Cllr Barker has served on a variety of committees and working groups, including the Climate Change Working Group, Economic Development Task Group, Finance Task Group and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

“I am proud and honoured to become Leader of the borough council” Cllr Barker said.

“We have ambitious plans for the borough, which are reflected in my priorities for the year ahead. Under my leadership, the Council will focus on financial responsibility, it will deliver a masterplan for Woking town centre and ensure our borough tackles climate change by becoming carbon neutral.”

“We are all too aware of the huge level of borrowing, which means control of the Council’s finances and adopting affordable, responsible and sustainable principles into how the Council conducts its business has to be our first priority.

“Whilst the town centre continues to evolve, Woking lacks a single vision or robust guidance to manage development, such as the height and character of buildings. I know this has polarised resident opinion, and is why we called for an agreed approach, known as a masterplan.

“My Leadership team and I are pleased that officers have already bought forward their proposals, and that residents will have the opportunity to comment on the direction of future town centre from Monday 25 July [see pages 14 and 15].”

At the same meeting, Cllr Barker unveiled her Executive, the team of councillors that will work with council officers to deliver the new administration’s key priorities.

New administration’s key priorities

- Financial responsibility.
- Deliver a masterplan for Woking Town Centre (see pages 14 and 15).
- Ensure Woking tackles climate change by becoming carbon neutral.

“I’m really excited to be working with such a talented and dedicated group of councillors, many of whom



bring a multitude of commercial and real-life experiences to their individual roles. I firmly believe we have the skills and knowledge within the Executive to drive this council forward in a new direction.”

Cllr Barker has also set out plans for improved governance of Council companies, an open and transparent approach, and a local economy fit for the

future. She also confirmed a commitment to review the Victoria Arch widening scheme, push for completion of Victoria Place and provide as much affordable housing as possible.

In summing up, Cllr Barker explains: “Woking faces a challenging year ahead, but my Executive and I are looking forward to changing Woking for the good.”

Introducing the new Executive

Each member of the seven strong Executive holds a ‘portfolio’ of responsibilities, which are highlighted below.

Leader – Cllr Ann-Marie Barker

Responsibilities: partnerships, strategic infrastructure, communications and engagement, neighbourhoods, democratic and civic functions and corporate governance.



Deputy Leader – Cllr Will Forster

Responsibilities: key projects including Victoria Arch widening scheme and Sheerwater Regeneration Scheme, voluntary sector, digital services and customer experience.



Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Finance – Cllr Dale Roberts

Responsibilities: corporate finance, regeneration, asset management, economic development, parking services, housing benefit and council tax.



Portfolio Holder for Greener Woking – Cllr Rob Leach

Responsibilities: climate change, environment and sustainability, flood risk management, environmental maintenance, waste and recycling and active travel.

Portfolio Holder for Housing – Cllr Ian Johnson

Responsibilities: housing needs, homelessness, housing register, private rented sector, landlord services and affordable housing.



Portfolio Holder for Living Well – Cllr Ellen Nicholson

Responsibilities: culture and community, leisure, green spaces, health and wellbeing, community safety, centres for the community, independent living service, family support and refugee support.

Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation – Cllr Liam Lyons

Responsibilities: all aspects of planning including the town centre masterplan, licensing, environmental control, food and health and safety.



Your elected councillors

The votes have been counted and the results of the local election held on Thursday 5 May 2022 are in, with details of your local borough councillors below. For information about your local councillors, their role and how to watch council meetings, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/councillors

BYFLEET & WEST BYFLEET

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Email: cllrtom.spenser@woking.gov.uk

Signed, sealed and delivered – meet Woking's new Mayor

Cllr Saj Hussain became Mayor of Woking at the official Mayor-Making ceremony held in May. Here Cllr Hussain tells The Woking Magazine about his passion for serving his local community.

After three years as Woking's Deputy Mayor, Cllr Hussain is more than ready for the role, which he describes as "a great honour and privilege."

Cllr Hussain moved to Woking from Pakistan, aged 11, in 1968. He attended Goldsworth Secondary School and tried out various career paths, including nursing, before becoming sub postmaster at Knaphill Post Office, which he bought with help from his family in 1986.

It was his involvement with Knaphill Residents' Association that led him into local politics. He was first elected to Woking Borough Council in 2012 and to Surrey County Council in 2013 representing Knaphill and Goldsworth West.

Cllr Hussain said: "My family has always been involved in local politics and helping people. I was the first Asian to join the Red Cross in Woking! I joined as a cadet, which was a good eye-opener for me.

"Over the years I've also been a school governor, an active member of the Royal British Legion, and supporter of both Knaphill Residents' Association and Goldsworth Park Community Association. I always want to help, and I thought the best way to do this would be to become a councillor."

During his 2022-2023 Mayoral Year, Cllr Hussain has chosen to support and raise funds for LinkAble, a Woking based charity that helps children and adults with learning difficulties.

Speaking about this, Cllr Hussain said: "Having had a child with additional needs, I know how much extra support is required. LinkAble gives people with learning difficulties the opportunity to build confidence and develop their social skills in a safe environment so that they can enjoy life.

"Our youngest daughter was born with a deformed heart and died in 2007, aged 15. We were constantly in and out of hospital and caring for a child with extra needs is very demanding.

"We were lucky to have family close by but not



everyone does, which is why organisations like LinkAble are a godsend. My aim is to raise funds to help them improve their facilities."

Cllr Hussain has four other children and nine grandchildren and describes himself as "blessed".

He has appointed his daughter, Mrs Faaira Sahi, a teacher at Hermitage School, as his Mayoress who will continue to support him as she has done for the past three years as Deputy Mayoress.

To keep up to date with the Mayor's activities, visit www.woking.gov.uk/mayor or follow [@wokingmayor](https://www.facebook.com/wokingmayor) on Facebook and Twitter

A 'masterplan' for Woking Town Centre: have your say



Consultation starts
Monday 25 July 2022
www.wokingcommunityforum.co.uk

Residents and key stakeholders can have their say on a new framework that will guide future development in Woking Town Centre, as part of a 12-week consultation that begins on Monday 25 July 2022.

Known as a 'masterplan', the document will establish an overarching vision for Woking Town Centre that will enable sustainable development, such as new homes that meet the needs of residents, a thriving retail and business environment, as well as strengthening Woking's cultural and leisure offer.

It will provide a long-term vision of what Woking's skyline could look like by 2030 and beyond by working with residents and key stakeholders. The masterplan sets out detailed standards and principles that deliver a shared vision of Woking Town Centre, such as building heights and density.

With initial engagement with Woking Residents Panel complete, and the masterplan drafted, it's now for residents to tell us their views on the future development of Woking Town Centre.

Public consultation

The comprehensive 12-week Woking Town Centre masterplan public consultation begins on Monday 25 July 2022.

Residents will have various ways they can find detailed information about the masterplan and provide their feedback, from a dedicated shop unit in Woking Town Centre hosting a wealth of information and officer drop-in sessions, to an online film providing visual aspects of the town centre masterplan.

To make the consultation as simple and straightforward as possible, the masterplan has been split into 10 key topic areas. Residents are asked for their opinions on each of the specific areas outlined below.

A short summary of each topic is below, alongside prompts you should consider when giving us your feedback. More details and prompts are available by visiting www.wokingcommunityforum.co.uk from Monday 25 July 2022.

Don't worry, you don't need to comment on all the topics, but if you do, it will assist us in delivering a community-led, inclusive masterplan.

Sustainable construction

Developments should achieve high environmental standards and mitigate against future changes in our environment by including measures such as decarbonisation of heat and power supplies, electric

vehicle charge points, rainwater gardens and biodiversity enhancements.

Do you agree with these principles or would you like to see more?

Flood risk and surface water drainage

Water is a natural part of our environment. However, urban development can increase the risk of flooding if measures are not taken to minimise the effects.

Developers should actively seek to reduce the impact of their developments through practical measures such as incorporating rainwater gardens, surface water tree pits and sustainable urban drainage systems.

Do you agree or disagree with these measures?

Green infrastructure and biodiversity

Developers can play a vital role in the health and wellbeing of our communities by incorporating green infrastructure initiatives within urban developments. Introducing new green spaces, such as pocket parks, planting trees or creating living walls are just some suggestions put forward in our masterplan.

Do you agree with these recommendations or do you have suggestions that would help green our streets and public spaces?

General infrastructure

Development must be supported by adequate and appropriate infrastructure, such as roads, hospitals and schools. Developers must contribute to these infrastructure requirements, as set out in the masterplan.

What are the key elements of infrastructure or services needed to support development?

Heritage assets

Woking has a rich heritage that includes listed buildings and a conservation area which need to be conserved. They help create a vibrant and dynamic town centre.

Would you support measures to further protect Woking's heritage assets and how would you like to see them enhanced and celebrated?

Leisure and culture

There is scope to capitalise on the town's expanded restaurant and bar scene to expand Woking's evening economy and create a cultural destination that meets the expectations of residents, workers and visitors.

Flexible and adaptable public spaces should be designed to reflect changing and emerging activities, events and add interest and animation.

What do you think about expanding Woking's evening economy? Where could this be successful in the town centre?

Economy

A town centre needs a mix of residential, commercial, leisure, culture and green spaces to create a vibrant and dynamic place where people want to live, work and play. It must be agile, able to respond and adapt to economic changes.

How do you see the future of Woking Town Centre and what economic issues should be addressed?

Housing

Town centres offer opportunities to create unique urban living experiences that cater for different types of lifestyle, which may otherwise not be achievable in other parts of the borough.

Development must be sustainable, offer a mix of accommodation, provide the right amenities and incorporate green infrastructure.

Find out more before telling us your views

This is just a snapshot of how we see Woking Town Centre developing in the future. It's now over to you to tell us your opinions.

The comprehensive 12-week Woking Town Centre masterplan public consultation begins on Monday 25 July 2022.

There are various ways you can find detailed information about the masterplan and provide your feedback.

Give us your feedback by visiting www.wokingcommunityforum.co.uk where you'll find:

- a copy of the draft masterplan
- our informative film that explains more about the different aspects of the town centre masterplan

How could our town centre housing proposals be improved? What types of dwellings and amenities should be delivered to meet need?

Townscape strategy

A townscape strategy offers an insight into what Woking's skyline could look like and suggests the type and height of developments that could be achieved, whilst considering the unique characteristics of Woking Town Centre.

What's your opinion of Woking's proposed skyline and suggested height of development within the town centre?

Transport

Improving sustainable travel options, such as walking and cycling, whilst making it easier, safer and more pleasant to travel short distances, will help improve connectivity and reduce congestion.

What transport improvements would like to see in Woking Town Centre?

Next steps

When the consultation ends, all feedback will be collated and reviewed before any changes are incorporated into the draft. Once complete, it is anticipated this final draft masterplan will be presented to Council for adoption in early 2023.

- interactive maps allowing you to leave your feedback

Visit our shop unit along Mercia Walk in the town centre where you'll find detailed information on each of the 10 topic areas. Officers will also be on hand to answer questions on specific topics

In addition, a series of roadshows will take place at key locations throughout the borough.

If you would like to ask a question about the masterplan or provide us with your feedback, please write to Planning Policy, Woking Borough Council, Gloucester Square, Woking GU21 6YL or email planning.policy@woking.gov.uk

The masterplan consultation closes Monday 17 October 2022.

#WEAREWOKING

TOGETHER

SPENDING YOUR SUMMER IN WOKING!



SUMMER IN THE SQUARE

Up until Sunday 4 September, Jubilee Square will be transformed into a 'garden' area with blossoming seasonal flower planters and big screen entertainment for everyone to enjoy.

The ideal place for some summer fun with a range of free activities including table tennis and giant chess. On weekends, a vintage cart will serve local dairy ice-cream for those hot sunny days. Plus, visitors are invited to relax on the deckchairs whilst watching entertainment on the big screen including the best of summer sport and family films.

ITALIA CONTI OPENS IN WOKING THIS AUGUST!

Internationally acclaimed performing arts academy Italia Conti will be relocating to Victoria Place in August! All of their courses will be carried out under one roof over two floors, in their new 48,000 sqft building, right in the heart of Woking. The Academy has an outstanding international reputation for providing performing arts training in a wide variety of disciplines, offering full and part-time performing arts courses, as well as exciting summer school courses. Summer school classes will run from 1 to 5 August, followed in September by the Woking Associates Saturday School, open to children aged 5 to 18 years. For more information on the courses available, visit www.italiaconti.com

ENJOY DINING ALFRESCO

You're spoilt for choice for summer dining options in Woking.



Fancy a tippie? High end cocktail bar, **KOMO**, on Commercial Way serves an extensive cocktail and dining menu from midday, six days a week. Or head to **Island House** to enjoy a menu with fresh and local ingredients, with a cocktail on the side.



If you're looking for the perfect weekend coffee spot, take a walk down the canal towpath to Town Wharf and stop at **Kiwi & Scott**. The cafe based on a canal boat serves Italian barista coffee, homemade cakes and bacon brioche baps.

Or head to not-for-profit tea and coffee house **The COSY** for relaxed seating and a slice of cake. If you have a date night planned or dinner with friends, then look no further than **Luciano's** for classically-prepared Italian dishes.



Run by Luciano Pierre White, the restaurant aims to offer 'affordable glamour' with its romantic but casual setting.

CHECK OUT WOKING'S PERKIEST PLACE TO LIVE



Looking for a new home this summer? Apartments in Woking's new residential tower, **The Marches**, are still available! Here you'll find furnished and unfurnished studios, one and two bedroom rental apartments, along with options to access top floor resident lounges, co-working space and 24/7 on-site resident services. To top it all off, the apartments have huge balconies so you can enjoy the amazing views this summer! Viewings can now be arranged, so come and take a peek. You can book a visit via www.themarcheswoking.co.uk

COMING SOON TO WOKING!

There are some exciting new openings happening in Woking over summer! **Woking Superbowl** and **The Gym Group** will be opening in Victoria Place so keep an eye out for updates at www.vpwoking.co.uk

To find out more about what's on in Woking visit www.wearewoking.com

* All details correct at time of going to print, May 2022.

Local heroes recognised by outgoing Mayor

Earlier this year, outstanding members of Woking's community celebrated their achievements at the Mayor's Civic Reception.

Eminent Citizen

Each year, the Mayor of Woking selects a resident who has given 'eminent service' to the community. This year, Claire Cummings was awarded Eminent Citizen for her outstanding voluntary work supporting local NHS providers during the pandemic.



Having set up 'Horsell Scrubbers' in late March 2020, Claire made over 11,000 items for the NHS. These resources included thousands of fabric masks and almost 800 smile masks for education staff working with deaf children and children with speech, language and communication needs.

Young People's Civic Award Scheme

Rewarding young people who make an outstanding contribution to the community. The judging panel included representatives from Woking Borough Council, Surrey Police, Sport Woking, and the voluntary sector.

Sara McKenna - Outstanding Contribution to the Community

Sara, a Year 7 student at St John the Baptist School, is a remarkable young lady who has raised money in support of her school's PTA and Breast Cancer Now charities.

Having only joined the school last September, Sara joined the Business Club where she channelled her efforts into organising a charity fundraising raffle,



spending hours of her own time obtaining donations from local businesses, promoting the raffle and selling tickets. Thanks to Sara's dedication, over £6,000 was raised for her two chosen charities.

Rohan Handa and Anoushka Kumar – joint winners of Outstanding Achievement

Rohan is a talented young cricketer from Pyrford. During lockdown, Rohan created a YouTube channel with a series of short videos called 'Cricket Nuggets' to help his peers keep active and gained hundreds of subscribers from around the world.



Rohan's love for cricket has also got him a position on the first ever Chance to Shine Youth Advisory Board, where he can help shape the way the organisation supports young people to develop through cricket.

Anoushka is an outstanding young artist who, at just 10 years old, has succeeded in many competitions including the Royal Society of Biology's Nancy Rothwell International Specimen art competition, Toyota's Dream Car art contest, Funky Pigeon's junior designer birthday card competition and an illustrator award for the children's book *Shy Sherona & Bold Bill*, authored by Josie Dom.



Lily Hider - Triumph Over Adversity

Lily, who attends Winston Churchill School, is a remarkable young lady. Since her brother's diagnosis of leukaemia, Lily has shown exceptional resilience and determination to focus on her studies whilst supporting her brother and being an amazing big sister.

Sponsored by The Ambassadors Theatre Group, each winner was presented with a glass trophy, a certificate, and vouchers including Nova Cinema tickets and a £20 gift card.

Nominations for next year's Young People's Civic Award Scheme will open shortly. For more information, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/ypcivicawards

A big thank you from Syrian refugee family

As Woking welcomes families fleeing the war in Ukraine, The Woking Magazine spoke to the Bargouth family, who fled their Syrian home in 2017, about their experiences of making Woking their home.

The Bargouth family were one of 50 families resettled in Woking under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme offering them support and a safe place to call home.

Now a well-established local resident, Mohammad Barghouth moved to Woking with his parents and two siblings in February 2017. He was just a teenager when the Syrian war turned his life upside down.

Reflecting on the past five years, Mr Bargouth said: "I had a beautiful childhood with my family growing up in Syria until the war started and everything changed all of a sudden.

"I lost the ability to have a normal life and was not able to feel safe or continue with my education. My family and I decided to flee Syria over fear of the bombings, which were destroying everything around us.

"The UK has been a safe environment free from violence and war and, the people have been friendly and welcoming with a good sense of respect, so I was able to integrate into the community quickly.

"The council has supported me and my family in so many ways from our first day in the UK, meeting us at the airport. They have assisted me with my studies, CV writing and securing my job which I have now been enjoying for over four years.

"I have been able to build memories through different opportunities brought on by moving here, including studying at Woking College, starting work, making friends, meeting my wife and starting a family.

"One of the main challenges I have faced is learning and understanding a new language. However, with the support of Woking Borough Council, I enrolled on the right course to develop my skills.

"I would advise Ukrainian families arriving in the UK to learn English as soon as possible and get into work to make friends. Take advantage of all the opportunities presented to you as they will also play a vital role in helping you to settle into your new life.

"I warmly thank everyone that helped and supported my family and I to settle safely here in Woking. My family and I send our best regards and appreciation to the Woking Family Support Programme who changed our lives so much for the better and helped us feel safe."

"There is no doubt in my mind that Woking is the best place to raise my son and continue living happily and peacefully with my family."

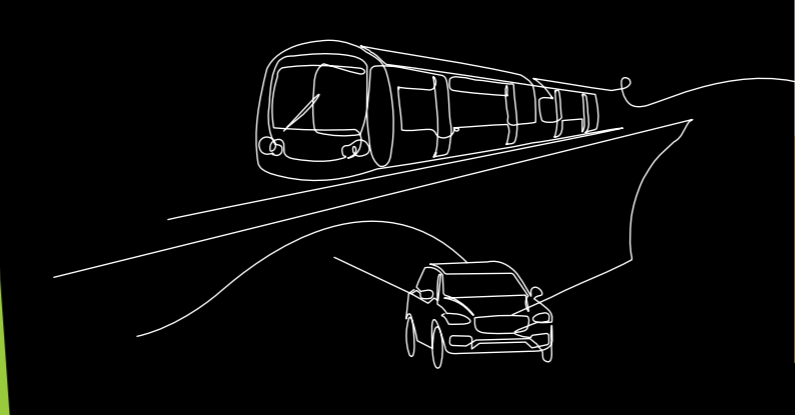
Since 2017, Woking Borough Council has resettled 50 Syrian families and five Afghan families and is now helping those fleeing the war in Ukraine, along with local host families.

For more information and advice for Ukrainian families arriving in Woking, visit www.woking.gov.uk/ukrainiansupport



Woking Borough Council's friendly Family Support Resettlement Team

VICTORIA ARCH WIDENING SCHEME UPDATE



Transforming Sheerwater update: A positive view of the future

Sheerwater Glass has occupied its premises on Dartmouth Avenue since 1972 and like many residents in the area, faces relocation as part of the regeneration project. Mark McCluggage, one half of the father-son duo that runs the company, explains why he and father Gordon are keeping the business in Sheerwater and what excites them about moving into the new development.

“Initially we were really dubious when the council started discussing its regeneration plans and what that would mean for us. We have the perfect set-up here on Dartmouth Avenue, which over the years has worked well for us.

“It was an anxious time because we’re only tenants here, but the council was quick to reassure us that they wanted us to be a part of the new scheme, and we’ve been actively involved and have inputted into the plans.

“It became quite clear early on however that if we were to stay, it couldn’t be as we are now. We have a yard out the back with lots of skips, lots of vehicle movement and that doesn’t fit with what the council is trying to achieve – and we completely understand that. But because we’ve known what was coming for some time, we’ve been able to make plans so that we can continue to provide the same excellent service to our clients.

“We’ve moved our back office, storage and distribution to a facility in Jacobs Well, and the unit we’ve signed a lease on within the new Sheerwater development, will be solely a showroom, which we hope will be ready by the end of September 2022 to begin fitting out.

“It’s a forced change but a net positive one, and we’re really looking forward to having a glossy showroom that fits with our customers’ expectations.



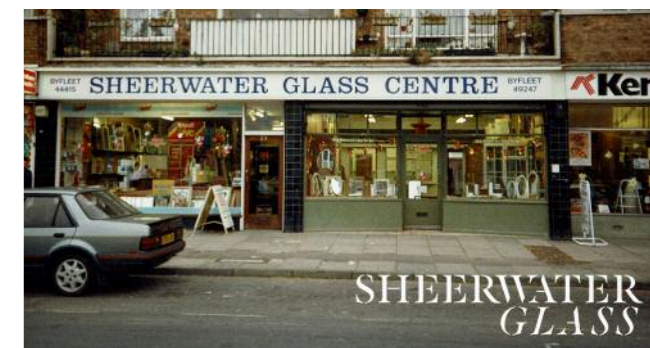
Sheerwater Glass directors, Mark and Gordon McCluggage

“We’ll also have the room to proudly showcase our full range of products and be able to make visiting the showroom a better experience for the whole family.

“Trading next to a construction site has been challenging at times. We’ve had problems with parking and vehicle access but the contractors are all very amicable, and the council’s Estates team is also very responsive. Our contact always picks up the phone and is quick to resolve any issues, which makes us feel wanted and valued, and I think the council has been, and is being, very fair to us in terms of the support offered.

“The move from Dartmouth Avenue into the new development is going to be good for us and we’re looking forward to being part of the community here for the next fifty years.”

Sheerwater Glass has occupied its premises on Dartmouth Avenue since 1972



www.woking.gov.uk | 01483 755855

and finalise the project’s main highways revitalisation works and help to validate the costs of the relocation of utilities. Access for pedestrians and cyclists was maintained throughout the works.

PROJECT REVIEW BY THE EXECUTIVE

The new Executive (see pages 10 and 11) elected to lead the Council has pledged to reconsider the delivery options for the Victoria Arch widening scheme.

An options report is due to be considered by the Executive in the summer and the outcome will be publicly promoted after the meeting. When published, you can view the report via the project webpages at www.woking.gov.uk/vicarch. Alternatively, you can subscribe to receive the latest project news via email at www.woking.gov.uk/vicarchenews

MORE INFORMATION
For the latest information, visit www.woking.gov.uk/vicarch



The Victoria Arch widening scheme is mainly funded by the government’s Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) and is project managed by Woking Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Network Rail and Homes England. The revitalised transport infrastructure will provide additional road capacity, reduced air pollution, safer access for pedestrian and cycle journeys, more reliable bus journeys and will secure the vitality of the rail network.

The Council and its partners continue to work together to bring forward a solution to replace the outdated Victoria Arch.

RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT SESSION

In February, further engagement was conducted with residents and businesses affected by the aggregates yard access road relocation proposals.

Over 80 residents, business owners and councillors attended an event held at the Woking United Reformed Church to find out the latest information about the scheme, the key works required and the relocation plans for aggregates yard access road.

A key point of interest was the updated plan to reassess the feasibility of reusing the existing access road to the aggregates yard, next to Victoria Arch, rather than creating a permanent access to the yard via York Road. The decision to revisit this option was driven by the feedback received from local residents and ward councillors.

Prior to and during the event, attendees and interested parties were encouraged to submit questions to the project team. The answers are published on the project’s frequently asked questions webpages at www.woking.gov.uk/vicarchfaqs

EARLY HIGHWAYS ENABLING WORKS

In June, the Victoria Arch was temporarily closed to undertake exploratory trial hole excavations underneath and on both sides of Victoria Arch. The works will inform



WE ARE UNLOCKING SPACE FOR NEW HOMES

PROJECT DELIVERY PARTNERS

Live well this summer

This summer, there are lots of wellbeing services on offer to help you live well, including support for carers and an opportunity to help encourage isolated people online, as well as our community meals team offering a tasty menu and warm friendship. Keep reading to find out what services you could benefit from.

Crossroads Care

When caring for a loved one, it can be difficult to get time to yourself. Crossroads Care provides a range of daytime services for adults with support needs, allowing their carers to take extended respite breaks knowing their loved ones are in safe hands.

St Mary's Centre for the Community in Byfleet hosts sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday for people with reasonable mobility. Days are split into morning and afternoon sessions, offering up to seven hours of activities. Sessions are affordable, and you can also enjoy a hot lunch as part of the day.

To find out more or book a session, call **01372 859980** or email **clubs@crossroadscare.surrey.org.uk**



Tech Angels

If you enjoy helping others and have a knack for technology, you could use your skills to help isolated people get online with the Surrey Coalition Tech Angels programme.

Volunteers spend time with individuals to teach them a range of skills, from using a touch screen to accessing online banking, making video calls to online shopping. Whatever the story, you will be using your existing knowledge of technology to help solve real life problems.

To find out more about becoming a volunteer, email **getconnected@surreycoalition.org.uk**

There are lots of Living Well services that you could be benefitting from in your everyday life, including handyman services, Careline personal alarms, and our centres for the community. For more information on all our services, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/livingwell



Community meals service

Woking Borough Council's community meals team don't just deliver delicious and healthy meals to your door – they are also a caring bunch who provide regular visits to yourself or a loved one. Customers enjoy seeing a friendly face each day, and our staff are able to spot any changes and flag potential issues.

As well as the standard hot lunches we also offer a range of cold meals for summer such as fresh salads and desserts including coronation chicken salad and strawberry trifle. We can also deliver tea-time food, like freshly made sandwiches and homestyle baked cakes.

If this has tempted your tastebuds, get in touch by emailing **community.meals@woking.gov.uk** or call **01483 770777**.



Borough Commander vows to tackle drug dealers in Woking

Drug addiction can cause misery to the user, their family and friends, and the local community. Woking Borough Commander, Inspector Moc, explains it's one of his top priorities and how you can help keep Woking safe.

"Unfortunately, unscrupulous criminals often take advantage for their own monetary gain, with little regard for the lives they may ruin. Whilst Woking is a great place to live and work, drug dealing can have a serious impact on our local community, causing issues such as anti-social behaviour and burglaries. I have therefore decided to make tackling it my priority for the borough.

"In the last year alone, we arrested 82 people in Woking on suspicion of drug offences and in September of 2021 we successfully identified and brought to justice the ringleader of a prolific and violent drug dealing county line called 'Panda'. He was exploiting teenage boys to sell heroin and crack cocaine by threatening to hurt them.

"Currently, my team are developing significant intelligence on drug dealers in Woking thanks to residents providing key information. Every report we receive helps us to secure enough evidence to obtain a search warrant and arrest and charge these criminals. We have also been increasing the number of weapon searches and drug sweeps conducted.



"These activities are designed to keep your community safe and make the area hostile to drug dealers."

Child exploitation

"Drug dealers often rely on young people to 'run' drugs for them, to avoid the risk of arrest themselves. They recruit children by giving them money and expensive items like phones or trainers. If a child you know has acquired several expensive items and their behaviour has become more withdrawn and secretive, they could be at risk of exploitation.



A cannabis factory recently shut down by Surrey Police

"If you think a child is being victimised or exploited, let us know by using the live chat option on our website and my youth engagement officers will be in touch to help safeguard them."

If you are struggling with addiction, remember you are not alone. You can get help from the NHS through your GP or local drug treatment services. A list of local services can be found by visiting **www.talktofrank.com**

Concerned someone is dealing drugs?

If you think someone is dealing drugs, ring Surrey Police on **101** or call the independent charity Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** if you want to remain anonymous. In an emergency, or where a crime is in progress, **always call 999**.

Remember, where there is drug dealing there is often exploitation, so you can do your bit to help keep Woking safe.

Woking Borough Commander, Inspector Kit Moc



Discover... Hoe Valley Park

Opened a decade ago in March 2012, this green oasis isn't just a pretty sight! Hoe Valley Park, once a 1950s household tip, today acts as a flood defence, protecting over 200 homes, whilst also being the perfect spot for nature lovers, dog walkers and family fun.

Hoe Valley Park

By foot: The site is best accessed on foot, either from the northern entrance off Kingfield Road next to Woking Football Club, the south via Bonsey Lane or to the west via Hawthorn Road.

Parking: No dedicated parking is available, however three hours free parking is available at Woking Park, just across the road from the northern access to the site.

Public transport: Regular buses run from Woking Town Centre, alight at the bus stop at Kingfield Road or Hawthorn Road.

Accessibility: A surfaced footpath serves the length of the site making it easily accessible for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Opening times: The park is always open except when in a flood, which it was built to protect houses from.

Facilities: There are two children's play areas, a multi-use games area, cycleway and footpaths. Refreshments and toilets are available at Woking Park.

Best time to visit: Can be enjoyed all year round.

Rules and regulations: All visitors are asked to follow the Countryside Code.

Site information and history

Hoe Valley Park was created as part of the flood defence scheme along the Hoe Stream. The £44 million project was delivered by ThamesWey Developments, on behalf of Woking Borough Council and the Environment Agency.

Formerly a 1950s household waste disposal site, approximately 220,000 tonnes of contaminated soil were excavated containing glass, plastics and other contaminants and replaced to form the new park and a housing development site for 150 new homes.

Completed in 2012, the flood defence scheme features over 4km of flood defence walls, earth embankments and bunds, and included the creation of two attenuation ponds, as well as other environmental improvements. This has not only provided vital flood protection to residential properties, but also an important habitat for local wildlife.

The green space was also designed for recreational purposes and a network of footpaths, as well as seating and play facilities make the site popular with visitors of all ages.

Nature and wildlife

The scheme included a programme of habitat reinstatement to encourage wildlife into the area through the creation of ponds, meadowlands and other habitat features. Additionally, almost 1,000 saplings were replanted which further created habitats for wildlife and a beautiful open space.

Ten years on wildlife is thriving, and you may just spot the odd creature here and there!



Look out for various native species of wildflower such as oxeye daisy, birds-foot trefoil, tufted vetch, yarrow and knapweed in the various meadow grass areas. Meanwhile, wetland plants such as the marsh marigold and purple loosestrife that live near pond edges.

Aside from ducks and other waterfowl in and around the ponds, you might also spot kingfishers on the riverbanks and perhaps, if you're lucky, you might spot bats known to roost in nearby trees.

Volunteers

If you'd like to get involved in conservation volunteering at this site, the Woking Biodiversity Group run practical volunteer sessions throughout the summer targeting non-native invasive Himalayan balsam. For more information, visit

www.wokingenvironmentaction.com/woking-biodiversity-partnership/



Top tip: If you want to extend your walk, you can continue south through to Mayford Meadows. Please note that this is an unsurfaced path, so wellies are advisable in the winter months or after heavy rain.

Want us to 'Discover' somewhere in Woking? If you have a place you love to visit, we'd love to share it with our readers! Get in touch by emailing marketing.communications@woking.gov.uk



LITTLE PLANET WOKING

SMALL CHANGES, BIG DIFFERENCE

Planet Woking is dedicated to all things relating to climate change, sustainability and biodiversity in the borough.

Our aim is to raise awareness of local action being taken by Woking Borough Council, with the help of lots of different organisations, to tackle climate change and protect our local environment.

But local climate action needs everyone to be involved. On the Planet Woking website, you'll find case studies, articles and videos designed to inspire you to make a positive difference. You can also sign up for our quarterly newsletter and follow us on social media too.

There is information and activities for younger members of our community on the Little Planet Woking pages. With the holidays approaching it's the perfect time for children and their families to get involved – here are some ideas to get you motivated:

- Ditch that lift and get walking, cycling or scooting for short journeys to cut carbon emissions.
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - The Surrey Environment Partnership

has created a fantastic range of free resources to teach children about waste, recycling and the environment. Challenge your family's recycling know-how by playing their online Recycle Right waste sorting game at www.surreyep.org.uk

- How green is your school? The Eco-Schools award programme is a globally recognised initiative that helps make sustainability part of everyday school life. Surrey County Council's Safer Travel Team can provide free training and advice on how to get started and support your school in achieving an Eco-Schools award. Contact them at safetravelteam@surreycc.gov.uk

- Save energy (and money!) around your home. Simple changes you can make include switching off lights and appliances when not in use; and hanging the washing to dry on a line rather than using a tumble dryer.

Find out more about energy efficiency measures at www.actionsurrey.org

- Inspired by this year's Wild About Woking event? This time of year is perfect for getting out in the garden and giving biodiversity a boost. Perhaps you could build your own bug hotel; or add a water feature that attracts birds and other wildlife such as frogs and dragonflies. Biannual pollinator friendly plant seeds can be planted now ready for next year and will be popular with honeybees and butterflies.
- It's not too late in the season to grow your own veg either. Perhaps you could create a vegetable patch or planter? Salad leaves, spring cabbage, radishes, spring onions and beetroot can be grown ready to harvest later in the summer and into early autumn.

By working together to make changes to the way we live, no matter how small, we can all make a difference to Planet Woking.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

email: hello@planetwoking.co.uk or visit: www.planetwoking.co.uk

Canaletto, music and school holiday fun!

The Lightbox
More than just a gallery

Discover inspiring and diverse exhibitions for all to enjoy this summer at The Lightbox Gallery and Museum – it's more than just a gallery.

Canaletto and Melissa McGill: Performance and Panorama

16 July to 13 November 2022

The Lightbox is delighted to announce the opening of its new exhibition this summer. A dialogue between two artists 250 years apart that explores Canaletto's spectacular depictions of Italy and England alongside Melissa McGill's independent public art project, staged in Venice in 2019.

The exhibition will bring together paintings, prints and drawings by Canaletto and works from 'Red Regatta', featuring video, hand-painted photographs, sound work, photography and watercolours by McGill.



Melissa McGill (b.1969), 'Red Regatta (Coppa del Presidente della Repubblica, San Giorgio Maggiore)', 2019. Archival pigment print. © Melissa McGill Maz

The Ingram Collection & The Fry Art Gallery: Bawden, Ravilious and the art of Great Bardfield

9 July to 9 October 2022

Celebrate the story of the thriving artists' community that sprang up in Great Bardfield, a village in north-west Essex, which is represented in the collections of The Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden and The Ingram Collection.

It will feature works by Edward Bawden and Eric Ravilious, two artists who around 1931 discovered the area and were inspired by the beauty of the Essex farmland, woodland, winding lanes, and open skies.

The Lightbox 15th anniversary Canaletto concert

14 September 2022 – advanced booking highly recommended!



Sara Dowling © Giorgio Serci

In September 2007, The Lightbox opened its doors for the very first time! To mark the occasion, award-winning singer and cellist Sara Dowling and guitarist and composer Giorgio Serci will play acoustic music inspired by the stunning Italian artworks of Canaletto, which will be on show as part of the exhibition.

Become a Lightbox Member for as little as £30 a year and enjoy free unlimited entry to all exhibitions, discounts across the programme and invites to exclusive events and private views. For more information and to become a member today, visit www.thelightbox.org.uk

Summer fun for all the family!

The Lightbox has a full schedule of workshops and events to get you and your little one's creativity flowing during our Family Fun Festival taking place in the first week of the school summer holiday.

You could design a map to travel the world (26 July) or make a flying aeroplane and get ready for take-off (27 July). Learn how to paint a landscape scene for your very own postcard (28 July) and have some bubble fun (29 July)!

For a full list of summer holiday activities, please visit www.thelightbox.org.uk



What's on

Events in and around Woking Borough



For more information about local events, visit www.celebratewoking.info

LIVE MUSIC

Summer Sounds

Woking Park Bandstand, GU22 9BA

Come down to Woking Park every Saturday this summer to enjoy live music from local bands. All performances are **free** from 2pm to 4pm, so bring a picnic, relax, and enjoy!

Sat 9 July – The Bourne Concert Band

Sat 16 July – Slinfold Concert Band

Sat 23 July – Cove Brass

Sat 30 July – The Revivals Band

Sat 6 Aug – Almac Bisley Brass Band

Sat 13 Aug – Trad's Army Dixieland Jazz Band

Sat 20 Aug – 4 in a Bar

Sat 27 Aug – Farnborough Concert Band

Cost: Free

Contact: Visit www.celebratewoking.info

Open Mic Nights with Phoenix Cultural Centre

Junction Coffee Shop, GU21 6BW
Mondays, 7.30pm to 10pm

All abilities are welcome. Whatever your style or level, come join us to watch, listen or indeed to join in the fun. Tea and coffee available.

Cost: Entry by donation

Contact: Email phoenixculturalcentre@yahoo.co.uk

Woking Choral Society Summer Concert

St John's Church, West Byfleet, KT14 6EH

Sat 9 July, 7.30pm

England's Orpheus. A programme including Byrd's Mass in 4 Voices, Purcell's Harmonia Sacra, and Britten's Te Deum and Jubilate in C. With professional soloist and accompaniment.

Cost: £18 full, £5 students

Contact: Visit www.wokingchoral.org.uk/events or phone 01483 767852

Genesis Chorale Summer Concert

St John's Church, West Byfleet, KT14 6EH

Sat 23 July, 7.30pm

Hymn to the Earth. An evening of uplifting music featuring classical works by Rutter and Chilcott alongside pop and jazz favourites, with a professional soloist and musicians.

Cost: £15, students £8

Contact: Visit www.genesischorale.org.uk

The Fabulosos Big Band Autumn Concert

Byfleet Village Hall, KT14 7QL

Wed 21 September, 11am to 12.15pm

A big band concert featuring swing, jazz, and blues music by artists like Sinatra, Glen Miller and more. Find the band on YouTube and Facebook. Doors open at 10.30am.

Cost: Free

Contact: Phone 07914 539012

THE ARTS

New Victoria Theatre

The Ambassadors, Peacocks Centre, GU21 6GQ

Long running shows this summer include: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, The Cher Show, Jersey Boys, and more. Check out the website for the full programme of shows.

Cost: From £13

Contact: Visit www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-victoria-theatre/ or phone 01483 545999

Improv Comedy Drop-In Sessions with Woking Improv Theatre

The Maybury Centre, Board School Road, GU21 5HD

Wednesdays 7.30pm to 9.30pm, starting 7 September

Improv comedy classes for adults, led by a professional coach. Make new friends, build your confidence and brush up on your performance skills. Laughter guaranteed or your money back. All levels welcome.

Cost: £15

Contact: Visit www.wokingimprovtheatre.co.uk

New Beginnings Exhibition

The Lightbox, Chobham Road, GU21 4AA

Wed 26 October to Sun 27 November

An exhibition showcasing unique works of art by women from the Women's Support Centre. This year's theme is 'masks'.

Cost: Free

Contact: Visit www.thelightbox.co.uk

COMMUNITY

Summer in the Square

Jubilee Square, GU21 6AE

Until Sun 4 September

Jubilee Square becomes a wonderful summer garden with free activities including table tennis and giant chess. The big screen and colourful deckchairs also returns, showing the best of summer sport, family films and lots more!

Cost: Free

Contact: Visit www.celebratewoking.info/

The Pyrford and Wisley Village Show

Pyrford Cricket Ground, Coldharbour Road, GU22 8ST

Sat 9 July, 1pm to 10pm

The show is celebrating its 75th year with the theme "Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee". Arena events and a dog show, as well as live music and attractions on the show ground, including a selection of stalls, refreshments and displays.

Cost: £3

Contact: Email info@pyrfordflower-show.org.uk

Knaphill Village Show

Mizens Miniature Railway, Barr Lane, GU21 2JW

Sat 16 July, 1pm to 5pm

Entertainment for all the family to bring the Knaphill community together. Live music and dance, Punch and Judy, a dog show, and steam train rides throughout the afternoon. A free minibus shuttle service will operate from The Vyne to Mizens.

Cost: £2 adult, £1 senior citizens, children free. Cash only

Contact: Email villageshow@knaphill.org

Byfleet Parish Day

Byfleet Recreation Ground, KT14 7LZ

Sat 16 July, 12.30pm to 5pm

Come down for a day of entertainment, featuring live music, arena displays, a horticultural show, food stalls, a dog show and more.

Cost: £1 adult, 50p concessions

Contact: Visit www.byfleetparishday.info/

Horsell Village Show

Horsell C of E Junior School, Meadway Drive, GU21 4TA

Sat 23 July, 12.30pm to 4.30pm

All the competitive elements of a traditional village show with classes for vegetables, floral art, handicrafts, photography, and more. Entertainment

will include morris dancers, a tombola, teacup rides, and face painting. Refreshments and afternoon teas available.

Cost: £2 adults, children free

Contact: Email mepiper7@gmail.com

ENVIRONMENT

Autumn Walk in Knaphill

Meet at the car park on Waterer's Park, GU21 2HT

Sun 11 September, 2pm

Join local historian Ian Wakeford for a guided autumnal amble around Knaphill. Open to all.

Cost: Free

Contact: Email info@heritagewalks.org

Woking's Great Big Green Week

Sat 24 September to Sun 2 October

Woking Environment Action (WEAct) will be organising series of activities and events for Great Big Green Week such as community stalls, litter picks and art installations.

Cost: Free

Contact: Visit www.wokingenvironmentaction.com/ or email wokingenvironmentaction@yahoo.com



Do you have a community event you'd like to promote?

Join hundreds of other local community groups and organisations promoting their events and activities free of charge on the Celebrate Woking website.

Upload details of your events and activities by visiting www.celebratewoking.info/events to find out more.



Why don't you... give rugby a try?



Whether you're trying to get back into rugby or want to tackle a new sport, Woking Rugby Football Club could be the scrum for you. So if you're looking to improve your fitness and meet new people, why not make a sprint for the line to see what they're about.

Woking RFC is the town rugby club, with origins dating back to 1931. They welcome players of all abilities, from novices to experienced players, and offer a good standard of competitive play.

They also run an active social scene, with many players saying the team is like family to them, and even opponents noting how friendly the club is!

"The sense of belonging at Woking RFC is second-to-none. After one training session I felt like I had a second family already. Everybody was so welcoming that it made the nerves of joining a new club disappear the moment I arrived. Now I feel like I really have a place here and I've made friends for life."

Max, 21 yrs old.

The club's ethos is development and improvement and they keep the training sessions as varied and stimulating as possible with a mixture of fitness, team and individual drills, and game situations.

Before the pandemic the club ran one senior side, but with numbers on the rise now they are looking to field a second team regularly in the coming season and need new players to get involved.

Am I too old or too young?

You're never too old to play rugby! To play in the senior squad, players must be at least 17 (or 18 for front row players), but there is no upper limit, with Woking's oldest player currently in their mid-50s.

What if I've never played before, or haven't played in many years?

This should not put you off having a go. Lots of members in this situation have joined the club and gone on to have a real impact. The club is delighted to welcome first-time players who are willing to learn a new sport (and it's not as hard as it seems!).

What are the benefits of playing rugby?

Rugby helps you keep fit and active, to develop personally as part of a team, and make friends for life!



What do I need?

All you need is a pair of studded boots, rugby socks, and a gumshield.

When do you train and play?

Training is held on Tuesdays 7pm to 9pm at Byfleet Recreation Ground, from the beginning of June through to the end of April. Games take place on Saturday afternoons at the same venue.



Want to know more?

If you've been inspired to give rugby a go, please visit www.wokingrugby.com to find out more. Alternatively, email wokingrugby@gmail.com



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Find out more at vpwoking.co.uk

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JERSEY BOYS



'OH WHAT A NIGHT'

EXPRESS & STAR

TUE 27 SEP — SAT 8 OCT



NEW VICTORIA THEATRE
WOKING

[ATGTICKETS.COM/Woking](http://atgtickets.com/Woking)



0844 871 7615*

New Victoria Theatre, The Ambassadors, Peacocks Centre, Woking, Surrey GU21 6GQ

*Fees apply. Calls cost up to 7p per minute, plus your phone company's access charge.