

# *Your* **Bracknell Forest**

2025 edition





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# Leader's welcome



As we reach the end of another financial year, I want to reflect on some key moments that have shaped Bracknell Forest over the past 12 months.

One of the greatest privileges of my role is engaging with so many of you - at community events, in schools, or through consultations that guide our borough's future.

This past year, I was proud to attend Bracknell Forest Pride, a fantastic celebration of inclusivity. I even took our recycling game to the event - it was great to see how well local children knew their recyclable materials!

I visited 11 primary schools, speaking with students about climate change and sustainable choices. Addressing climate change remains a key focus, and events like the summit in July and consultation in December gave residents a chance to share ideas.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our residents, businesses, and community groups. Your involvement and commitment make Bracknell Forest a fantastic place to live, work, and study. I look forward to continuing our work together in the year ahead.

**Cllr Mary Temperton, Leader of Bracknell Forest Council**

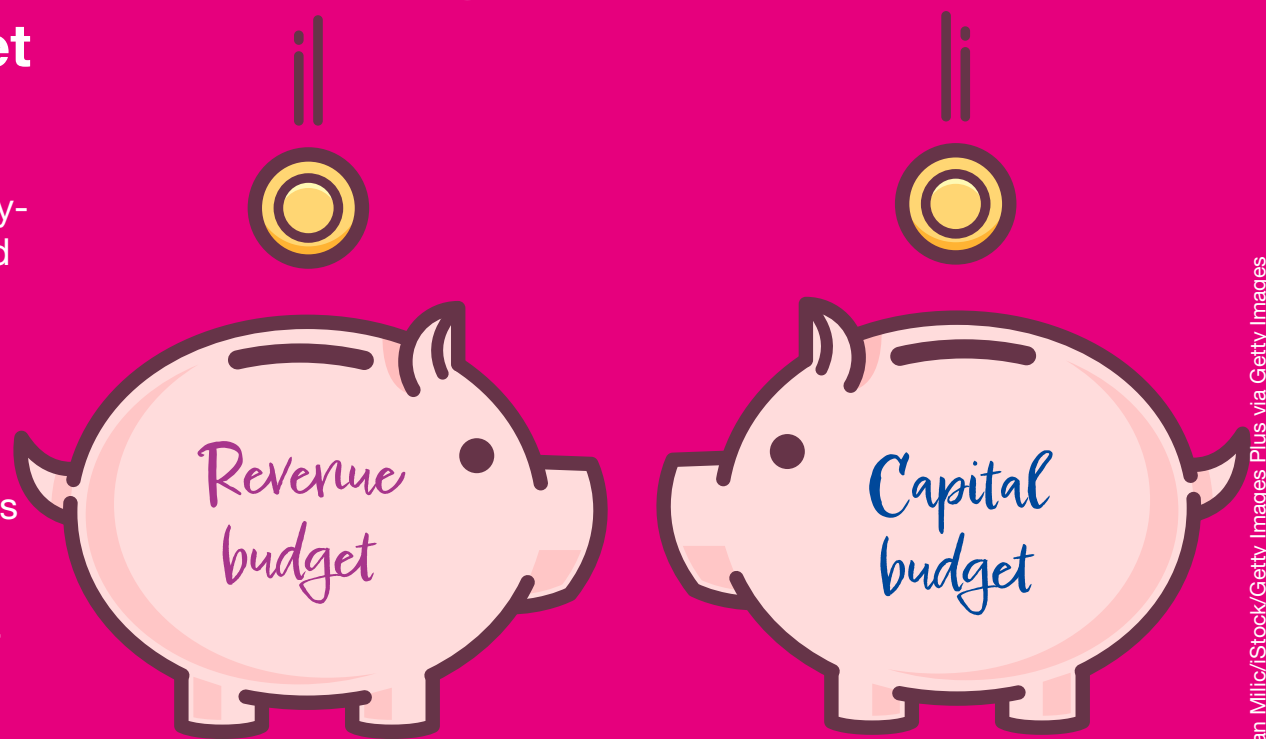




# The council's budget explained

## The council's budget is split into two:

- **Revenue budget** - Covers day-to-day services, mainly funded by council tax, government grants, and business rates. Schools receive a separate government grant.
- **Capital budget** - Funds assets like buildings and roads, financed through asset sales, government grants, developer contributions, and borrowing.



**A household comparison:** the revenue budget would cover gas, electricity, and food, while the capital budget would fund major investments like an extension or new driveway.

### Our 2025/26 budget

This year's budget is £105.6m, plus £14.3m for capital projects, including:

- £2.7m for road repairs and improvements
- £445,000 for essential South Hill Park maintenance
- £500,000 for council-owned temporary accommodation
- £1.29m for new school places

### Council tax

Over £85m of the revenue budget comes from council tax. A 4.99 per cent increase has been agreed to protect vital services, adding around £1.55 per week for an average Band D home (excluding town/parish costs).

**Cllr Kathryn Neil, cabinet member for finance and business change, said:** "We know it's never welcome news that council tax is increasing, but given the squeeze on our finances from years of government under funding and increasing service cost and demand, we have no real choice. If we don't increase council tax then we can't provide all the essential services our residents rely on like social care, bin collection, road maintenance, community safety, libraries, education and so much more. We know some people will struggle with this increase and so we are providing further council tax discounts to people in financial hardship."



## How your council tax is spent

Council tax funds key services, including:

- £ Social care (adults and children)
- £ Registration services, and burial/cremation services
- £ Libraries, leisure facilities, and family hubs
- £ Bin collection, road repairs, and street cleaning
- £ Housing and homelessness support
- £ Climate change and biodiversity projects
- £ Public health and safety services
- £ Cultural activities



A portion of council tax also funds town/parish councils, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, and the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.

# How council services impact your life

## Chloe, 27 - single mum to Emily, 3

As a single parent on a low income, I qualify for a council tax reduction, this helps me stretch my budget further to cover essentials like food and bills.

When I fell in to rent arrears last year, the housing team was able to provide expert advice and support so Emily and I could carry on living in our home.

I get 30 hours a week free childcare administered by the council, which means I can work part-time without having to pay huge childminder fees. Emily's childminder regularly attends training by the council's early years team - this gives me extra reassurance.

When it rains, we'll head to the library or family hubs to take part in arts, craft or story time sessions. All these activities are free and provided by the council.



## James, 34 - single with a disability that impacts mobility

I live in an accessible home, which was adapted with help from the council's Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). They helped fund my ramp, wider doorways, and a stairlift, making my home safer and easier to navigate.

Taking the bins out can be difficult, so I signed up for assisted bin collections. The council's team collects my waste and recycling directly from my doorstep, making this everyday task much more manageable.

Many of Bracknell Forest's parks, pathways, and public spaces are designed to be accessible. I often visit Lily Hill Park, where I can enjoy nature using wheelchair-friendly routes.

The council's adult social care services provide carers and personal support for people with disabilities. They also run wellbeing programmes and disability support groups that help me stay connected with the community.

Thanks to these council services, I can live independently, stay active, and remain part of the community.



## Patel family - Amit, 45, Priya, 43, Maya, 13 and Rohan, 7

As a family we use many council services without even thinking about it. For example, when our children started school, it was the council's school admissions team that made sure it was a smooth process and we had all the information we needed.

Likewise, as Maya rides to school – it's the council that provides and maintains the good network of cycle lanes to ensure she gets there safely.

Recently, we've been on a health kick, and it was the council's smoke free services that helped Amit to quit smoking. As a family, we've been taking part in the council's walks for wellbeing to get our steps up and enjoy the wonderful scenery – so good for our mental and physical health.

Rohan also enjoys the local parks and playgrounds, and we've spent many happy weekends at The Look Out - having fun and learning at the same time.

We also enjoy all the family-friendly events in the town centre that the council provides for free – it helps keep the cost of entertaining the children down.



## Margaret, 78 - retired

My older person's bus pass is a lifeline, and it was so easy to apply for through the council's website. I can travel for free on it to the shops, doctors and to see friends.

As I live alone, I get a reduction in my council tax, reducing the pressure of the cost of living.

I love reading and the library service has been great at providing me with large print and audio books. I've also joined a scrabble group and craft group at my local library for free, this has helped keep my mind active as well as make new friends.

I'm not as steady as I used to be and so I needed a few adaptations to my home like grabrails – the council's social care team sorted this out for me, so I can continue to live in my own home safely and independently.



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**Cllr Iskandar Jefferies**  
**said:** "This much-needed facility will bring people of all backgrounds together - a warm, welcoming place to socialise, exercise or relax. We look forward to it becoming a valued part of the community."

# Buckler's Park Community Hub

**Age Concern Bracknell Forest (ACBF) formally took over management of Buckler's Park Community Hub in December 2024, after completion of the lease.**

This milestone marked a significant step forward for the hub and its expected opening to the public in spring 2025.

The community hub was delivered by Cala Homes as part of the Buckler's Park development. The hub will offer several activities and services to local people of all ages. It includes a large sports hall, meeting rooms, and tennis courts.

An on-site café is also anticipated to open later in 2025.

The council is working with ACBF to prepare the building for opening. For room hire enquiries, contact: [info@ageconcernbracknell.org.uk](mailto:info@ageconcernbracknell.org.uk).





# Topping out at Bridgewell



The construction of Bridgewell supported living accommodation reached a key milestone in October 2024 with its topping out ceremony. This marked a significant positive step forward in the project.

Located on the previous Bridgewell site at Ladybank in Birch Hill, the new facility will provide much-needed accommodation for adults with care and support needs. Construction is set to finish in spring 2025.

The accommodation consists of four apartments, each with five ensuite bedrooms, a communal lounge, kitchen, dining area, and an additional accessible bathroom.

**Cllr Megan Wright, cabinet member for adult services, health and housing, said:**



"The council has worked closely with people with care and support needs, their families, and partners on this scheme. The fit-for-purpose facility will better meet individual needs, encourage engagement, and reduce isolation - making a real difference to those living there."

## Growing stronger communities in Bracknell Forest

Strong, caring, and connected communities make Bracknell Forest a great place to live and thrive. That's why work is underway to further grow and strengthen local connections.

A 10-year communities strategy is being developed with input from religious, health, cultural, charity, and voluntary groups. It aims to support both geographical communities and those built around shared interests or passions. By fostering these bonds, people are more likely to support, care for, and look out for each other.

This aligns with the council's ambition to create engaged and healthy communities, making the borough an even better place to live, work, and visit.

We want as many people as possible to help shape this strategy. Share your insights by completing our short survey at [bracknell-forest.gov.uk/stronger-communities](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/stronger-communities).

Pop-up events and engagement opportunities will be announced soon. If you would like to get involved, email: [communities@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:communities@bracknell-forest.gov.uk) or call 01344 352000.





# Celebrating Bracknell Forest culture



Our Culture and Community Day burst into life in June last year. It brought with it an assortment of diverse cultural entertainment, including the Jadoo belly dancers, reggae music from Matthew Allman, Bracknell and Wokingham Community band, vocals from Bracknell Victorious Assembly and many more.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, 19 July and will be just as colourful! Save the date and look out for further information coming soon.



## Bursting with Pride

We celebrated Pride in style in July. The all-day event started off with an accessible parade around the town centre, followed by an array of free music, entertainment and support from local organisations.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers and support groups who help to make our celebrations so brilliant. Pride will return this year on Saturday, 7 June - be sure to save the date!

We'll also be marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day on Thursday, 8 May. Look out for further information coming soon.







# Braccan Walk Youth Hub

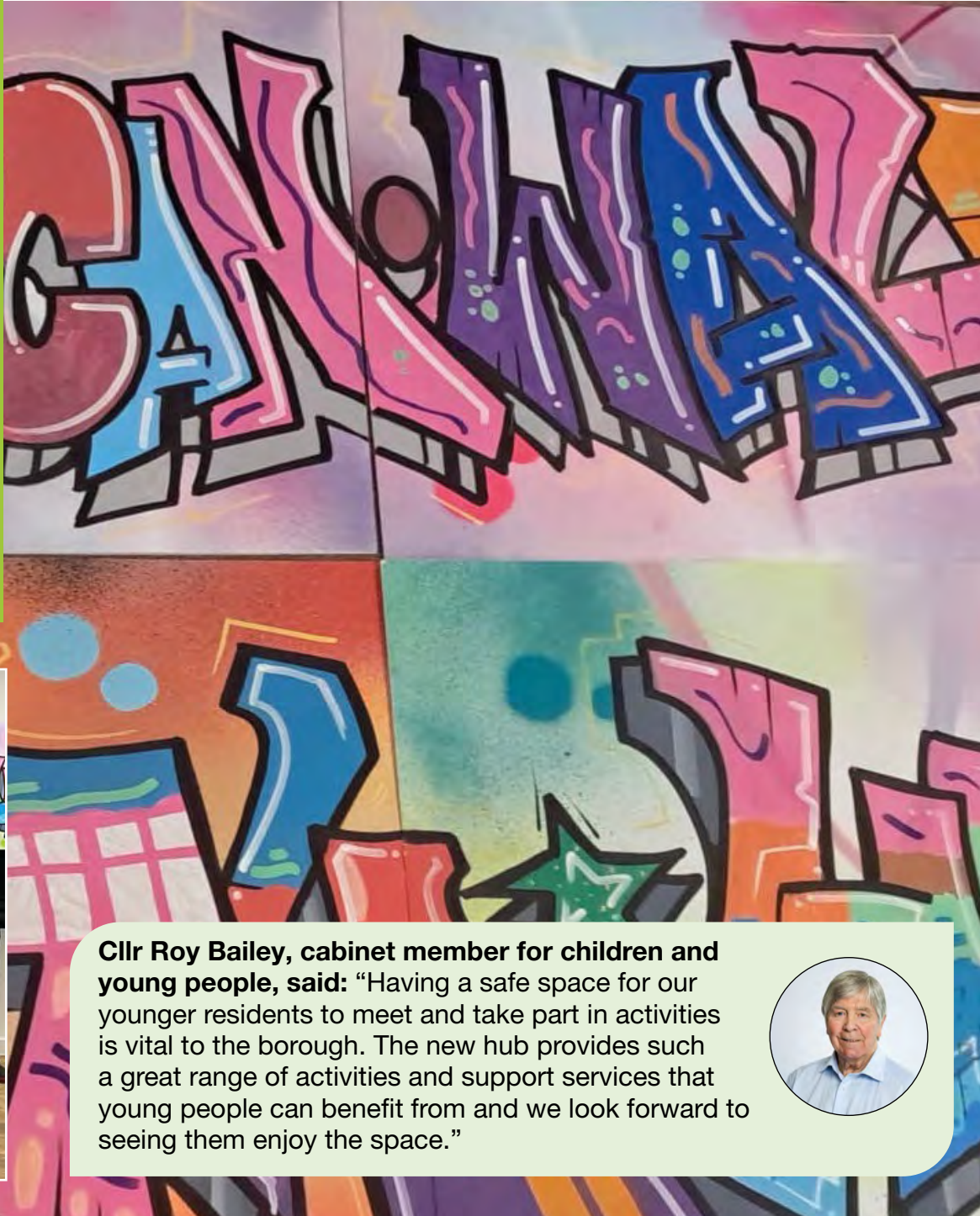
**Braccan Walk Youth Hub is now open. It's a dedicated space for young people and a base for Bracknell Forest's targeted youth support service.**

Located on the ground level of Braccan Walk multi-storey car park, the hub provides a safe space to hang out, play pool, table tennis, video games, and more.

The hub is also home to Bracknell Forest Youth Voice, giving young people a say in local decisions. The Braccan Walk committee, chaired by young people, has executive power over proposals.

It hosts after-school youth groups, including SEND and LGBTQIA+ groups. During school hours, it provides a learning space for those outside mainstream education and career advice from Elevate.

Braccan Walk also has a clinic room, with a sexual health drop-in service every Tuesday from 3pm - 5pm.



**Cllr Roy Bailey, cabinet member for children and young people, said:** "Having a safe space for our younger residents to meet and take part in activities is vital to the borough. The new hub provides such a great range of activities and support services that young people can benefit from and we look forward to seeing them enjoy the space."





# FAKE NEWS

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## Understanding misinformation and disinformation

In today's world, we are constantly receiving news and updates from social media, websites, and news outlets. While much of it is reliable, some is false or misleading.



**Misinformation is false or inaccurate information shared without intending to deceive.**

**Example** - A person shares a post on social media claiming a celebrity has died when they're still alive. The person sharing it might not know it's false.

**Disinformation is false or misleading information deliberately created to mislead or manipulate.**

**Example** - A group of people creates fake news about a public figure to damage their reputation or sway voters.

### How to spot misinformation and disinformation

#### Check the source:

- **Red flags:** unknown sources, has a history of spreading false claims, or doesn't provide evidence.

#### Look for evidence

- **Red flags:** doesn't provide sources or uses vague statements like 'experts say' without evidence.

#### Be careful of emotional headlines

- **Red flags:** overly dramatic or sensational headlines that feel too good (or bad) to be true.

#### Verify the date and context

- **Red flags:** posts or stories that have been shared without updates or context.

#### Cross-check with other sources

- **Red flags:** if only one website or social media account is reporting the information, it's worth looking into it more carefully.

#### Beware of fake photos or videos

- **Red flags:** images that look altered or don't match the story, or videos that seem too polished or out of place.

What can you do to help

#### stop misinformation and disinformation?

- **Pause before sharing:** think twice before sharing posts, especially those that are emotional or sensational. Always verify the information first.
- **Report false content:** if you see suspicious or harmful content, report it to the platform or the relevant authorities (for example, Thames Valley Police or local community safety teams).
- **Educate others:** share your knowledge with your children, other family members and friends, so more people are aware.
- **Remember:** social media platforms do not fact-check everything people post, so just because something appears on Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok or other platforms, it doesn't make it true.







# Keeping our community connected

Over the past year, Bracknell Forest public health has offered and co-hosted a wide variety of free events and activities.

The social prescribing team ran a 'Stay Connected' programme. These included social meet-ups, craft sessions, exercise classes with after-class socials, and coffee drop-ins.

The Great Wellness Exchange in the autumn promoted these groups and partnered with Everyone Active to host a wellness event at Bracknell Leisure Centre, bringing together exercise classes, NHS health professionals, and community groups.

The Walks for Wellbeing programme recently celebrated its 400th walk! Led by Sustrans' walk leader Mark, the weekly guided walks take place in all weathers, as long as it's safe.

For activity timetables and local events, visit the public health portal: [health.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://health.bracknell-forest.gov.uk).





# Community Learning at Bracknell Open Learning Centre



**Adult learning courses in wellbeing, arts, computing and employability skills.**

Visit: [bracknell-forest.gov.uk/community-learning](http://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/community-learning)

Phone: 01344 354220

Email: [community.learning@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:community.learning@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

By post: Bracknell Open Learning Centre, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, RG12 7GR



Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/bracknelladultlearning](https://facebook.com/bracknelladultlearning)



## School Governors are people like you

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**Want to use your  
skills and develop  
new ones?**



**Email: [governors.helpdesk@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:governors.helpdesk@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)  
[bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schoolgovernors](http://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schoolgovernors)**







# Improving Bracknell Forest's roads

Millions of pounds have been ploughed into improving local roads, paths and bike lanes over the past year.



Work has included:

- A new toucan crossing between Halifax Road and Ranelagh Drive.
- A new zebra crossing between Earlswood and Cottesmore in Hanworth.
- A new pedestrian island, bus stop and footpath improvements on the Maidenhead Road (near Jealott's Hill) to improve safety for people walking and using public transport.
- Creating parking spaces in: Beaumont Gardens (Harmans Water), Underwood (Great Hollands), Lindenhill Road (Priestwood), Yardley (Great Hollands), Abbotsbury (Great Hollands), Naseby (Hanworth), and Grantham Close (Owlsmoor).

More than £4m has been spent on resurfacing roads, including:

- The A329 Berkshire Way (between the Wokingham boundary and Jennett's Park roundabout).
- The A330 Maiden's Green (between Winkfield Street and Bracknell Road).
- The A3095 Mill Lane (between the Hanworth roundabout and Wildridings roundabout).
- The A322 Bagshot Road southbound (between the Coral Reef junction and Swinley junction).

A further £2.7m is earmarked for highways improvements in 2025/26.



# Building a stronger economy



**Cllr Paul Bidwell, cabinet member for economy and regeneration, said:** “We are committed to keeping the Bracknell Forest economy thriving and resilient.



“Our Economic Strategy 2024-2034 sets out clear steps as to how we will do this and make sure that the borough remains a great place to live, work, and do business.”

**We are focusing on four key areas to drive growth and prosperity:**

- Economic performance
- Business competitiveness
- People, work, and wellbeing
- Place, climate change, infrastructure, and connectivity

**Strong progress has already been made, including:**

- Creating a partnership board - bringing together businesses and organisations to support economic growth.
- Hosting business support events - running three in-person events with Berkshire Growth Hub to connect businesses with expert advice.
- Launching the Bracknell Forest Skills Hub - funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, helping residents and businesses develop essential skills.
- Engaging with local businesses - our cabinet member has already visited seven businesses to understand their needs.

By working together, we are building a stronger, more resilient local economy for everyone in Bracknell Forest.



## Bridging the gap between talent and opportunity

The Bracknell Forest Skills Hub launched in September 2024 and is a one-stop shop for training advice and support. Based at the Bracknell Forest Open Learning Centre, it helps residents build their skills and find new opportunities. It also works with local employers to support them to upskill existing staff and recruit trained staff.

Whether you're looking for a job, changing careers, returning to work, or upskilling in your current role, the hub provides guidance tailored to your needs. It brings together businesses, training providers, and education experts to help people succeed in a fast-changing job market.

Since the launch it has held over 50 career seeker consultations, engaged with 42 local businesses to discuss their requirements and training needs, and developed two bespoke training courses to meet the unique requirements of a local business.

Visit: [bracknellforestskillshub.com](https://bracknellforestskillshub.com)



# New affordable homes for local people

**Cllr Helen**

**Purnell,**

**cabinet**

**member**

**for the**

**environment,**

**community and housing,**

**said:** “We have consistently said that we need more affordable properties in Bracknell Forest for local families. Likewise, we need more social rented properties so local people can access good quality homes at a lower rent.

“This is a big step forward and further demonstrates our commitment to creating safe and affordable places for people to live – a priority in the 2023 to 2027 Council Plan.”



**New affordable and social rent homes are being built in Bracknell Forest, providing safe, pleasant, and environmentally friendly housing for single people, couples, and families.**

These include:

- A 100 per cent affordable development on Old Bracknell Lane, featuring flats and three- and four-bedroom homes.
- Affordable family-sized homes for social rent on Binfield Road.
- 81 affordable homes on Market Street (29 shared ownership, 52 social rent).
- Energy-efficient homes at Coopers Hill, including 13 affordable two- and three-bedroom apartments.

## Next steps for town's redevelopment

**Masterplans for three key areas in Bracknell town centre have been approved following public feedback and revisions. The masterplans include:**

**Southern Gateway (bus station area and Jubilee Gardens)**

Plans could include:

- New homes (apartments, townhouses, and older people's accommodation)
- Employment and office space
- Community and youth facilities
- Shops, cafés, and play areas
- A new bus hub and public toilets

Bus travel will remain accessible with enhanced stops along Station Way, Station Road, and Market Street. Access to driver facilities, seating and bus shelters will still be available.

**Eastern Gateway (around Easthampstead Works)**

Plans could include:

- New homes (including extra care housing)
- Employment and commercial space
- A new library and play areas
- Potentially a refurbished Easthampstead House

Plans could include:

- A range of new homes, including affordable housing
- Commercial and community space
- Leisure, employment, trees, gardens, and new play equipment

### **Borough Vision 2050 - have your say**

**We want the public's view on the future Bracknell Forest up to 2050.**

**Have your say on what you think is important for the borough's future at one of our upcoming engagement sessions running on:**

- 5 April
- 10 April
- 22 April
- 3 May

**Visit our website for times and details.**

High Street Car Park



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- Overnight sleep overs
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- Short breaks

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**Bracknell  
Forest  
Fostering**

**Call 0330 131 2797 or visit: [bracknell-forest.gov.uk/fostering](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/fostering)  
to request a call back.**

## **Need help finding local family services?**

Our **Family Services Directory and Additional Needs Info Hub  
Local Offer** makes it easy to access support for:

- ✓ special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- ✓ childcare and early years funding
- ✓ leisure and holiday activities
- ✓ parenting and family support

✉ [fis@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:fis@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

☎ 01344 353133



Get free, impartial advice tailored to your family's needs.  
**[bracknell-forest.gov.uk/localdirectory](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/localdirectory)**





# Holiday activities and food programme

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## Funding for the holiday activities and food (HAF) programme in 2025/26 has been agreed by the Government.

Eligible children in Bracknell Forest will be able to take part in the amazing activities during the holidays.

As with previous years, the programme will be open to children who are eligible for free school meals.

We're working with our holiday club providers to offer a range of activities that cater to children's hobbies and interests, including:

- Sports: football, basketball, tennis, golf and dance to keep children

active and engaged.

- Arts and crafts: painting, drawing, and crafting sessions to inspire creativity and self-expression.
- Performing arts: drama, music and theatre to build confidence and showcase talents.

Additionally, we aim to run special educational needs (SEN) provisions so all children, regardless of their needs, can participate.

All participating children will also receive a healthy meal.

To find out more, visit: [bracknell-forest.gov.uk/haf](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/haf)



## Childcare hours are changing



**Balancing work and childcare can be challenging, but new support for working parents can help ease family life while giving children a strong start.**

Childcare support is expanding to include children from nine months old. Parents of children aged nine months to three years may be eligible for 15 hours of free childcare per week (38 weeks a year), increasing to 30 hours from September 2025.

Check your eligibility and apply at: [childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://childcarechoices.gov.uk).

Some parents receiving additional support or with a child on an education, health and care (EHC) plan can access 15 hours of targeted funding for their two-year-old. All three- and four-year-olds remain eligible for 15 hours per week, with working parents potentially entitled to up to 30 hours

Find all registered childcare settings in Bracknell Forest at: [bracknell-forest.gov.uk/childcare](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/childcare).

For more information or help finding childcare, contact the family information service at: [fis@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:fis@bracknell-forest.gov.uk) or call 01344 353133.



# A year as your Mayor

Becoming Mayor has been an incredible experience. Over the past year, I've had the privilege of meeting people from all walks of life and learning more about our wonderful borough.

We have marked important occasions like D-Day and Remembrance Day, honouring the sacrifices of those before us. Our armed forces, medical staff, and key workers continue to serve with dedication, and we owe them our gratitude.

I've had the honour of opening new facilities like the Binfield Health and Community Centre and celebrating culture and community with local groups. Our borough thrives, thanks to the hard work of volunteers and charities - I sincerely thank them.

One of the most special experiences has been welcoming new citizens at our citizenship ceremonies. Each ceremony is a moving occasion, where individuals from different backgrounds and cultures affirm their commitment to the UK. It is heartwarming to see the pride and happiness on their faces as they receive their certificates and officially become British citizens.

Being Mayor has given me the opportunity to witness the incredible community spirit that makes our borough so special. It has been an unforgettable year, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor.

**Cllr Jenny Penfold, Mayor of the Borough of Bracknell Forest**





# Making homes warmer and more energy efficient



**Helen, a resident from Binfield.**

“When I first heard about the home upgrade grant scheme delivered by Bracknell Forest Council, I was sceptical. The idea of free, government-funded home improvements sounded too good to be true. After discussing it with my family and researching the programme, I realised it was a great opportunity to transform my living situation.

“Before the scheme, my house was far from comfortable during winter. I relied solely on electric panel heaters, which did little to ward off the chill and were expensive to run. Even my hobbies, like puzzling and cross-stitching, became nearly impossible to enjoy. To relax I had to bundle in a blanket, trying to keep warm.

“Once I applied, the transformation began swiftly. The scheme installed an air source heat pump with radiators, solar panels with battery storage, and modern heating controls. The entire process took just a week, with minimal disruption. The tradespeople were courteous, professional, and ensured everything was tailored to my home’s layout.

“Now, my home is warm and comfortable. My energy bills have been halved compared to last winter. I can finally enjoy my puzzles and cross-stitching in a cosy space. I am deeply grateful for the scheme and encourage any eligible resident to take advantage when these funded energy schemes are available.”

To check eligibility for similar schemes, visit: **[bracknell-forest.gov.uk/energy-grants](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/energy-grants)**

“I am deeply grateful for the scheme and encourage any eligible resident to take advantage when these funded energy schemes are available.”



# A fruitful endeavour!

**A new community orchard is being established at Peacock Meadows in Jennett's Park.**

Last winter, our parks and countryside rangers planted 16 fruit trees, two wild service trees and a native hedgerow.

As the fruit trees mature, residents will be able to enjoy spring blossom and autumn crops of apples, cherries, damsons and pears. Two of the apple varieties, Arthur Turner (cooking apple) and Fiesta (eating apple), are native to Berkshire.

The young native hedgerow surrounding the new orchard will be accompanied by a chestnut and rail fence, made by our rangers from locally sourced timber.

Traditional orchards are a priority habitat under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), due to their importance for wildlife. Their mix of habitats, including fruit trees, grassland, hedges and deadwood provide food and shelter to wildlife.

The new community orchard is located near the car park off Swift Fields.



**Cllr Guy Gillbe, cabinet member for planning, transport and countryside, said:** “Thanks to everyone involved in this project, including the People’s Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) for their funding contribution and advice.



“Creating at least three new community orchards is a target in our Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), which runs from 2024 until 2029.

“A wide variety of species are associated with orchards, some of which have high conservation priority. We are hoping to attract pollinators, such as bees, butterflies and birds through these improvements.

“The new orchard will also give residents a quiet space to enjoy, with the opportunity to get close to nature.”





# Helping you travel more sustainably

## Cycle festival

The borough's first mini-cycle festival took place last September. The event, co-hosted by Trek Bracknell, Avanti Cycling, The Lexicon and Bracknell Forest Council, featured the Fusion Extreme display team, learn to ride sessions and a variety of stalls.

This year's event will take place on Sunday, 8 June in Bond Square - the same day as the Three Counties Cycle Ride.

## Bikeability

Bikeability, the government sponsored cycle training programme for schools, is on course to be provided to over 1,100 school pupils this year. The training, delivered by Avanti Cycling, equips young riders with the skills to ride confidently in traffic. For more information, go to the Avanti Cycling website at [avanticycling.co.uk](http://avanticycling.co.uk)

## Eco Rewards

Eco Rewards offers rewards and incentives for schools, communities and businesses in Bracknell Forest to encourage more walking, cycling and public transport use. Over 150 QR code signs are placed around the borough, which can be scanned by a

smart phone to record green journeys and access scheme benefits. Earlier this year the scheme reached the milestone of 600,000 green miles reported. Wooden Hill Primary became the latest school to join the scheme, in part to try and reduce parent parking at drop-off and pick-up. For more details and to join go to: [ecorewards.co.uk/bracknell](http://ecorewards.co.uk/bracknell).

## Improving routes to schools

Following on from recent crossings built on the routes to Edgbarrow and Brakenhale schools over the past couple of years, more crossings are planned for this coming year. A new zebra crossing on Birch Hill Road has been installed.

## Summer of fun

Council staff promoted walking, wheeling and cycling at the free Summer of Fun events last summer, as well as giving away some My Journey-branded goodies. Officers helped local residents plan journeys to schools and highlighted key walking and cycling links in the local area. The My Journey website, which is a one-stop resource for all local transport information, can be found at: [myjourney.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://myjourney.bracknell-forest.gov.uk).





# Recycling right in Bracknell Forest

## Recycling at home

Our waste analysis found that 63 per cent of our green general waste bins could be recycled.



Food waste and textiles made up 25 per cent of the green bin waste. If you live in a house, all food waste, including coffee grounds and tea bags, can be recycled at the kerbside. Unwanted clothing and textiles can be recycled at local recycling sites, donated to charity or sold second-hand.



Paper and cardboard, plastic bottles, plastic trays, plastic pots and tubs, empty aerosols, cans, tins and foil and tetra pak cartons can all go in your blue recycling bin.



Garden waste can be recycled in your brown garden waste bin or garden waste sack.

## Local recycling sites

Check before you go! You can generally recycle glass, textiles and shoes at local recycling sites. Find your nearest and check what they accept using: [recyclenow.com/recycling-locator](https://recyclenow.com/recycling-locator).

Don't leave any waste on the floor. If bins are full, please find an alternative recycling site or take it back home. Report any full containers using our online form: [bracknell-forest.gov.uk/report-recycling-site](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/report-recycling-site).

If you do leave rubbish behind, you could be fined up to £400 for fly tipping.



## Easter collection changes

There will be changes to bin collections over the Easter period.

Good Friday collections will take place as normal. There will be no collections on Easter Monday, so all collections that week will take place one day later than usual, running up to and including Saturday.

Check your collection dates and what you can and can't recycle at: [bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bins](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bins).







# Council meetings

## April

**Wednesday 23, 7.30pm**  
Council  
**Thursday 24, 6.30pm**  
Planning Committee  
**Tuesday 29, 5.30pm**  
Cabinet

## May

**Wednesday 14, 7.30pm**  
Council  
**Thursday 15, 6.30pm**  
Planning Committee  
**Tuesday 20, 6.30pm**  
Cabinet

## June

**Tuesday 3, 5pm**  
Corporate Parenting  
Advocacy Panel  
**Thursday 5, 6.30pm**  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Commission  
**Thursday 12, 6.30pm**  
Planning Committee  
**Thursday 19, 7.30pm**  
Licensing and Safety  
Committee  
**Tuesday 24, 6.30pm**  
Cabinet

## July

**Thursday 3, 6.30p**  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Commission  
**Wednesday 9, 7.30pm**  
Council  
**Tuesday 15, 6.30pm**  
Cabinet  
**Thursday 17, 6.30pm**  
Planning Committee

## August

**Thursday 14, 6.30pm**  
Planning Committee

## September

**Thursday 4, 6.30pm**  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Commission  
**Tuesday 9, 5pm**  
Corporate Parenting  
Advocacy Panel  
**Wednesday 10, 7.30pm**  
Council  
**Thursday 11, 6.30pm**  
Planning Committee  
**Tuesday 23, 6.30pm**  
Cabinet

## October

**Thursday 9, 6.30pm**  
Planning Committee  
**Tuesday 14, 6.30pm**  
Cabinet  
**Thursday 16, 6.30pm**  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Commission  
**Thursday 23, 7.30pm**  
Licensing and Safety  
Committee

## November

**Tuesday 4, 6.30pm**  
Cabinet  
**Thursday 6, 6.30pm**  
Planning Committee  
**Thursday 13, 6.30pm**  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Commission  
**Wednesday 26, 7.30pm**  
Council

## December

**Tuesday 2, 5pm**  
Corporate Parenting  
Advocacy Panel  
**Thursday 4, 6.30pm**  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Commission  
**Thursday 11, 6.30pm**  
Planning Committee  
**Tuesday 16, 6.30pm**  
Cabinet



## We've got a new look

Our residents' newspaper has had a fresh new look as part of our commitment to clear, honest communication with our community.



As set out in our communications and marketing strategy for 2024–2028, we're revamping both the content and style - while keeping our print and distribution costs unchanged, thanks to our in-house writing and design.

The new edition will be delivered annually to all households in Bracknell Forest, making sure that every resident stays connected with key updates and news.

We're also proud to continue supporting our local economy by printing the publication locally at the PrintRoom in Bracknell. It's printed on FSC-accredited paper that comes from responsibly managed forests where trees are replanted to maintain a continuous cycle.

If you need a reasonable adjustment to communicate with us or read this publication, email [customer.services@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@bracknell-forest.gov.uk) or call 01344 352000.





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[thelexiconbracknell.com](https://thelexiconbracknell.com)

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With easy access, wide avenues and ample parking, The Lexicon is the ultimate destination for shopping and leisure. Featuring over 100 fashion and beauty brands, you'll find everything you need to refresh your look.

There's a diverse selection of dining options, plus incredible family events to enjoy all year round.



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