

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022



COUNCIL SURGERY

Thursday 10th March, 7pm - 8pm, on Zoom (see below)

Saturday 2nd April, 10am – 12pm, The Broadway*

Saturday 28th May, at Fun On The Field, Thatcham Memorial Playing Field

*with our partners from Thames Valley Police neighbourhood team

We understand not everyone can make it to the regular Council Surgery in The Broadway so we're introducing new ways to engage and we've now launched a regular online Surgery.

Join Councillors on **Thursday 10th March, 7pm - 8pm**, on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 883 5789 1464

Passcode: 386541

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are usually held in Thatcham Town Council Chamber at 7pm, unless otherwise stated.

Members of the public are warmly invited to attend:

Planning & Highways
Tuesday 22nd February (online)

Recreation & Amenities
Monday 28th February (online)

Town Centre
Monday 14th March

Planning & Highways
Tuesday 15th March

Recreation & Amenities
Monday 21st March

Full Council
Monday 28th March

BE A PART OF THATCHAM'S LEGACY



Queen Elizabeth II has ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe. She has been an important figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth during times of enormous social change. On her 21st birthday, in a speech broadcast on the radio from Cape Town, the then Princess Elizabeth dedicated her life to the service of the Commonwealth saying:

'I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service.'

On 9th September 2015 Her Majesty became Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch and 6th February 2022 marks 70 years since The Queen acceded to the throne, becoming the first British Monarch to mark their Platinum Jubilee.

Thatcham Town Council is planning a long Jubilee weekend of celebrations starting on Thursday 2nd June when the Mayor of Thatcham will be lighting a beacon, corresponding with over 1,500 being lit across the UK, and for the first time, in each of the capital cities

of the Commonwealth countries. More information to follow in our next Newsletter.

In the meantime, Thatcham Town Council is urging you to take part in its **Legacy Project** which will be a lasting tribute to Her Majesty's 70 year reign.

We would like individuals, groups and schools to produce 2ft x 2ft (60cm squared) panels depicting key events in Her Majesty's reign, the UK and Globally. Panels in all creative medias are welcomed. The finished depiction will be approximately 10m x 2m and will be displayed in a museum quality housing as a lasting legacy for Thatcham.

Deputy Mayor Cllr Jeff Brooks is coordinating the project and said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for people with craft skills to have their work as an integral part of this excellent project. We can picture it and describe it as a tapestry, but we want all sorts of crafts to be represented rather than just woven material".

Email enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk or call Cllr Brooks on 07836 388534 with your interest.

BUDGET 2022/23

At a meeting of Full Council on 31st January 2022, Council adopted a budget for the financial year 2022/23. To fund the £1m budget, £810,015 will be raised through precept, resulting in a 4.8% increase in council tax payments compared with 2021/22. For an average Band D house, this will mean an increase of £4.02 to £87.90 per annum.



**PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSLETTER**

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Thatcham Town Council has set an action to support and promote a programme of activities to help Thatcham, as a whole, become more sustainable with the ambition of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. To reach this target the Council will help residents of Thatcham to reduce their carbon emissions. We have identified 7 areas of everyday life where carbon (and money) savings could be made. These are shown on the poster below. Look out for the poster on social media and on our website where you'll be able to click on each of the "7 things you can do" to be taken to further information about that topic. Any constructive feedback you would like to give us will be most welcome, as we recognise that this is a journey we all need to make together. Email us at enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk.



7 EVERYDAY Challenges Choices Changes

SAVE ENERGY



Change from fossil fuels
BE PART OF THE FUTURE

Improve your home.
SAVE MONEY!

Get funding support.
HELP IS AVAILABLE

THINK ABOUT FOOD



Buy local where you can.
REDUCE FOOD MILES

What's in my food?
EAT BETTER. FEEL BETTER.

Eat seasonally.
GROWN BY NATURE.

Grow your own.
HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL.

TRAVEL WISELY



Think about how you travel.
PLAN AHEAD.

Enjoy walking and cycling.
MOVE NATURALLY.

Reduce pollution.
BREATHE BETTER.

USE AND WASTE LESS



Think about packaging.
REFUSE UNNECESSARY PLASTIC.

Up your recycling game.
TAKE 2 MINUTES TO DO YOUR BIT.

Buy less stuff!
BECOME A "USE-LESS" PERSON.

Fix it. Share it. Give it.
THINK BEFORE YOU BIN.

ENJOY NATURE



Enjoy your green spaces.
GET "BACK TO NATURE"

Look after the natural environment.
BE A GREAT EXAMPLE.

Support wildlife in your garden.
ENJOY NATURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP.

YOUR MONEY MATTERS



Spend your money with people who share your values.
BUY A BETTER WORLD

Where is your pension or savings account?
INVEST IN A BETTER WORLD.

Buy local and independent.
SUPPORT A STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY.

JOIN IN



Ask questions. Get answers.
BE INFORMED

Share what you do.
BE AN EXAMPLE

Encourage your family and friends.
SUPPORT OTHERS

Lobby your Councillors and MP.
PRESS FOR CHANGE.

Together we can MAKE A DIFFERENCE

THATCHAM REFILLABLE

Refillable cleaning and personal care products / Vegan, ethical and sustainable UK made products / Re-use plastic bottles

Order online at www.thatchamrefillable.co.uk

Contact: thatchamrefillable@hotmail.com / 07876 350 137 / 07519 049 247

Follow @thatchamrefillable on Facebook and Instagram



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

It is easy to help the environment by recycling your rubbish and things that you no longer want and there are many ways to do this in and around Thatcham:

Donate

There are several charity shops in Thatcham town centre, which accept clothing and small items; Age UK, Community Spirit, RSPCA, Scope and Sue Ryder.

Newbury Community Furniture Project accepts donations of furniture, electrical and household items in good condition. See www.n-c-r-c.org or call 01635 43933.

You can advertise items online that are too large or not suitable for a charity shop, for example on Freecycle: www.freecycle.org/town/NewburyUK

Recycling banks and locations

There are several recycling banks and locations in Thatcham:

Kingsland Centre Car Park: paper/cardboard, plastic food containers, beverage cartons, small appliances, textiles

Burdwood Centre: clothing and shoes, Aylesford Way (outside CSS premises): small electricals,

Waitrose & three branches of Co-Op: soft plastic (bags etc), Batteries: any shop that sells them should collect them for recycling

Kerbside Recycling Collection - this accepts:

Paper and cardboard (not large sheets), glass bottles and jars, tins and plastic bottles (please take other plastic food containers to the Kingsland Centre) and garden waste (requires an annual subscription).

Food waste is collected in the green bin and you do not need a garden waste subscription for collection of food waste.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

These are at Newbury (south of Newbury on Newtown Road) or Padworth (just off the A4 towards Reading)

See the West Berkshire Council website for the online registration scheme and how to book a visit:

www.westberks.gov.uk/hwrcinfo Household and garden waste is free, but there is a charge for other items, including soil and building materials.



WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

The strategy, found here: www.westberks.gov.uk/environmentstrategy outlines the steps West Berkshire Council intend to take with their partners to reach their target of carbon neutrality by 2030.



LOCAL TRANSPORT OPTIONS

Find details of local transport options, including Bus Timetables, Community Transport Schemes and a Pay-As-You-Go Car Club, at: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/transportoptions>

A new 22kW Fast Charge electric vehicle charge point is now live at Gilbert Court Public Car Park, in Brownsfield Road.

For information on how to use the charging point, along with fees and maps, visit: <https://bit.ly/3fhztLS>

Please note, users will be required to pay for their parking space whilst charging their vehicle.



THATCHAM LITTER PICKERS



Thatcham Litter Pickers have released dates for their community litter picks on the following Saturdays at 10am:

27th February - Moorside, Kennet Heath

26th March - Burdwood Centre

30th April - Lower Way Playing Field

29th May - Siegecross Park

Follow @thatchamlitterpickers on Facebook to keep up-to-date, or email: thatchamlitterpickers@gmail.com

SUSTAINABLE LIVING MARKET - THATCHAM & NEWBURY

A not-for-profit organisation running bi-monthly markets selling and promoting environmentally-friendly products & services. Markets are held at Thatcham Catholic Hall, starting at 10.30am. Dates for 2022, as follows:

Saturdays: 19th March, 21st May, 23rd July, 17th September and 19th November.

Follow @SLMThatchamNewbury on Facebook to keep up-to-date, or email:

slmthatchamnewbury@gmail.com for more information.



THE WILD VERGES PROJECT

As the days get longer and we approach the spring, the Wild Verges Project is preparing to get stuck into another season of surveying verges across West Berkshire. This survey work is really important to collect information about the rural verge network, to create better-informed management plans to improve verges for wildlife.

There are over 1,000 miles of rural verge across West Berkshire. Around 10% have been surveyed already and BBOWT aim to do as much as they can before the end of the project in 2023. So, they need all the help they can get! They have an established team of volunteers and would welcome more. Full training will be offered in April, with several courses running at weekends. There will also be digital resources available to further support your surveying experience.

The surveys themselves don't require a great deal of knowledge and have been designed to be completed by anyone, regardless of nature identification skills – from the professional botanist to the wildlife enthusiast – everyone is welcome to get involved. The surveys take place between May and September. They can be completed at your leisure and each section of verge only needs to be surveyed once, taking between 30 minutes and an hour to survey. You can do as many or as few sections as you like!

More details about the project can be found on the BBOWT website at: <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/west-berkshire-wild-verges>

If you would like to get involved, please email volunteering@bbowl.org.uk and mention the Wild Verges Project. If you'd like more information about the project or surveys, or if you know of any florally-rich verges near you, please email the Project Officer Simon Claybourn at simon_c@bbowl.org.uk

WALKING FOR WELLBEING

Walking is a great way to get exercise and to relax and you don't need any expensive equipment to do it. We are fortunate to have beautiful countryside right on the doorstep of Thatcham.

There are regular Wellbeing Walks starting at the Burdwood Centre, the Nature Discovery Centre and Greenham Common. To find out about the walks visit: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/wellbeingwalks>

You can also find two six-mile circular Wild Walks on the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust's website that take in Bowdown Woods nature reserve and Greenham & Crookham Commons. Download the maps at: www.bbowl.org.uk/explore/wild-walks

The 'Visorando' website describes several walks starting from Thatcham, between 3.5 miles and 10 miles long. These have detailed route descriptions and the free downloads include an Ordnance Survey map showing the route.; visit <https://www.visorando.co.uk/> and search for Thatcham. For these walks, sturdy footwear is recommended, especially when the ground may be muddy.

MAYOR'S NEWS

December was packed full of lots of lovely Festive concerts and services, including the League of Friends, Beenham Wind Orchestra, Newbury Town Council and one of my own charities- Swings & Smiles. The weekend of the 3rd-5th December was Thatcham Town Council's own celebrations starting with the Lights' Switch-on on the Friday evening. The Broadway was full of bustling community stalls and performances from local schools and groups. At 7pm I invited some families who had recently arrived in Thatcham from Hong Kong to help me switch on the lights and I was delighted by the warm welcome given from Thatcham's Community. The next day we held our Festive Family Day for the younger

families where I met the huggable snowman & ice sisters! On the 5th I was pleased to kick off Thatcham Rotary's Great Santa Fun Run which was a spectacular sight! At my Carol Service on the 12th December a fabulous £250 was raised for my charities. You can read more about my activities at www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/council/the-mayor
Cllr John Boyd, Mayor of Thatcham

If you'd like to invite the Mayor to your event or activity, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Simply complete the form at the website above.



CONTACT THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCILLORS

Each Thatcham Councillor can be contacted by e-mail using the format name.surname@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham

Steve Ardagh-Walter	07790 932545
John Boyd, Mayor	07853 151871
Richard Foster	07803 203292

Thatcham West

Jeff Brooks	Deputy Mayor
Mark Lillycrop	07717 858284
David Lister, Leader	
Simon Pike	07787 154070
Keith Woodhams	

Thatcham North East

Mike Cole	01635 869893
Jeremy Cottam	01635 871733
Lourdes Cottam	01635 871733
Lee Dillon	07393 288712
Christine Rice	

Thatcham Central

Ellen Crumly	
Richard Crumly	01635 867283
Paul Field	
Owen Jeffery	Deputy Leader 07968 251370
Jennifer Walker	

☎ = also West Berkshire District Councillor

REPORT IT...

Have you seen something that needs reporting that we haven't spotted yet? It's easy to let us know about things like broken glass, dog fouling and litter using the "Report It" page on our **website**.

Or call the Council Offices on **01635 863592**, message us on **07503 634761** or visit a Council Surgery.

To report a problem to West Berkshire Council visit:
www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem



ThatchamTC



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FSC COUNCIL