



COUNCIL SURGERY

Saturday 18th March at Henwick Worthy Sports Field, 10am-12pm

Residents in Thatcham West are invited to a Ward Surgery on Saturday 18th March at Henwick Worthy Sports Field to discuss any local matters with a Town and District Councillor.

Pop along between 10am and midday. You'll find them near the Pavilion.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Recordings of our Council & Committee meetings can be viewed on our YouTube channel.

Members of the public are warmly invited to attend the following meetings:

Town Centre
Monday 6th March

Planning & Highways
Tuesday 14th March

Recreation & Amenities
Monday 20th March

Annual Town Meeting
Thursday 23rd March at 6.30pm

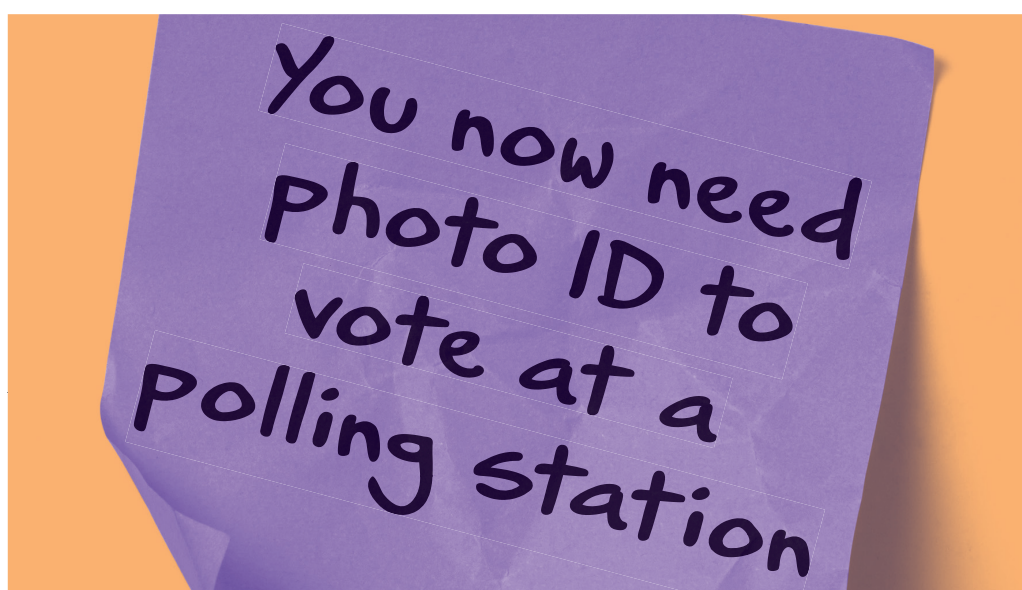
Full Council
Monday 27th March

Planning & Highways
Tuesday 4th April

Finance & General Purposes
Monday 24th April

Planning & Highways
Tuesday 25th April

NEW LEGISLATION TO VOTE



From May 2023, voters across England will need to show photo ID to vote in person in a polling station.

Accepted forms of ID include:

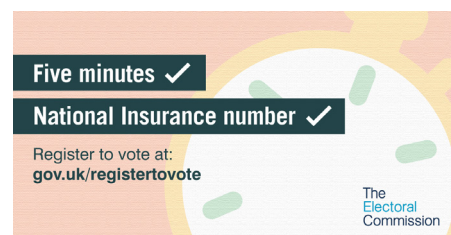
- A passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state, or a Commonwealth country
- A driving licence issued by the UK, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state
- Some concessionary travel pass, such as an Older Person's Bus Pass or an Oyster 60+ card. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

A new form of **FREE** ID, the Voter Authority Certificate, is available for those who do not have another type of accepted ID. You can apply online here: www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate or print a form from the same website and apply via post.

There is more information on the Electoral Commission's website at: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

If you know that you won't be able to get to the polling place on polling day, you can vote by post.

You can apply for a **postal vote** because you're away on holiday or because your work schedule means you can't get to a polling place. You can also choose to vote by post simply because it would be more convenient for you. Download the form at: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post and if you need any help completing the form, please contact your local Electoral Registration Office based at West Berkshire Council, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD Email: vote@westberks.gov.uk or Phone 01635 519464.



**PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSLETTER**

HOW TO BECOME A COUNCILLOR

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

If you are passionate about your local community, then why not consider becoming a Thatcham Town Councillor. Councillors make a huge difference to the quality of life of local people and how local issues are dealt with. People from all backgrounds and experiences are needed to stand for election, to reflect the communities they serve.

1. Why become a councillor?

Being a councillor is all about giving back to your community by bringing your energy, passion, and hard-working attitude. You can make a real difference to the local community and wider society in many ways as a councillor. For example, you could be representing the views of local people to ensure the community gets the right services, supporting a resident with an issue, or helping to shape the community by driving new ideas.

Being a councillor is a varied and highly fulfilling role. You don't need any experience or special qualifications, and you'll gain lots of new skills, experience, knowledge, and confidence.

2. What do councils do?

Councils are responsible for a range of vital services for people and businesses in defined areas. Thatcham Town Council is the first tier of local government, serving the residents of Thatcham at grassroots level.

Here are some of the services that **Thatcham Town Council** provides:

- Mayor of Thatcham
- Henleys Allotments
- London Road Cemetery
- Frank Hutchings Community Hall
- Burdwood Community Centre
- Public Toilets
- CCTV
- Community Events
- Thatcham Market
- Play Areas & Open Spaces
- Street Furniture

3. What do councillors do?

Local councils are made up of councillors who are elected by the public in local elections. Councillors work with local people and partners, such as community groups, businesses and other organisations, to agree and deliver on local priorities. The decisions are implemented by permanent council staff, council officers, who deliver services on a daily basis.

The role of a councillor is to serve and represent everyone in the ward that they are elected to (and not just those who voted for them). Some are also appointed to additional roles in the council, such as Mayor, Leader or Committee Chairman.

The role brings people together. Councillors work with a diverse range of people from their community and have officers to support them in their role at the council. Councillors lead the local conversation, you can be part of that to make your area the best place it can be.

Councillors serve and represent the community in many ways, for example:

Talking to constituents by phone, email and letter, social media, home visits, drop-in sessions, street or community meetings, and local events.

Responding to queries and issues from local people, investigating concerns, helping with solutions (this is called casework).

Keeping the community informed about local issues and events - for example through email, newsletters, blogs, social media and in person.

Reading council meeting agendas and reports, research and evidence to understand issues and participate in discussions and decisions.

Attending formal council meetings as well as meetings with local partners and organisations.

Working collaboratively with local people, voluntary and community organisations, police, health partners, and businesses to shape the future of the local area. Building strong relationships and encouraging people to get involved and share their views and ideas.

4. Who can be a councillor?

We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the communities they serve to put themselves forward for election. You don't need any experience or special qualifications. Your life experience, everyday skills, passion and commitment to people and communities are vital, and it's important that councils reflect the local population.

To be a councillor you need to be:

British or a citizen of the Commonwealth. You may also be eligible as a citizen of the European Union, however the criteria has changed now that the UK has left the European Union. Please check on the gov.uk website for advice about EU citizens' voting and candidacy rights in local elections.

At least 18 years old.

Registered to vote in the Parish of Thatcham or have lived, worked, or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election.

You can't be a councillor if you:



HOW TO BECOME A COUNCILLOR



2019 - 2023 Councillors * Please note Councillor Richard Crumly replaced Councillor Nassar Kessell December 2019

Work for the council you want to be a councillor for, you can work for another local authority as long as you are not in a political restricted post.

Are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order.

Have been sentenced to prison for three months or more (including suspended sentences) during the five years before election day.

Have been convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court.

Are subject to any relevant notification requirements, or a relevant order, in respect of a sexual offence.

Please read the full eligibility criteria from the Electoral Commission: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england

5. How do I become a councillor?

If you are interested in becoming an independent candidate (not in a Political party), you can get resources and advice from the Local Government Association's Independent Office: www.local.gov.uk/lga-independent As an independent, you will also need to start working out your views on local issues and services.

To stand for a Political party, you'll need to be a member of the party, get involved locally and go through their selection process to be put forward as their candidate for election. You can find out more on each party's website.

To become nominated as a candidate you usually need to submit a completed set

of nomination papers to your council by 4pm on the 19th working day before the election which this year will be Tuesday 4th April.

KEY DATES:

Publication of notice of election: No later than Monday 27th March

Delivery of nomination papers: Monday 27th March until up to 4pm Tuesday 4th April

Deadline for withdrawals by 4pm Tuesday 4th April

Publication of statement of persons nominated: No later 4pm Wednesday 5th April

POLLING DAY: Thursday 4th May

Delivery of return as to election expenses: Thursday 1st June

6. What is the time commitment?

Being a councillor requires commitment and hard work, but the role can be done flexibly around employment, studying, caring, and other voluntary commitments. Whilst the commitment can be challenging at times, the role is highly fulfilling, and it is worth it for what you can achieve for your community.

The amount of time you spend on your duties as a councillor is largely up to you and will depend on the different roles and commitments each councillor takes up.

While much of the day-to-day work of a councillor takes place outside of formal meetings, you will be required to attend

regular Council Meetings which generally take place at 7pm in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber.

Before you consider becoming a councillor, you may want to discuss it with your family and friends to ensure that they understand that you will need their support, or speak to one of the Thatcham Town Councillors to hear from their experiences.

7. Can I have a job and be a councillor?

By law, if you are working, your employer must allow you to take a reasonable amount of time off during working hours to perform your duties as a councillor. The amount of time given will depend on your responsibilities and the effect of your absence on your employer's business. Employers can choose to pay you for this time, but they don't have to.

We would encourage you to discuss as soon as possible with your employer before making the commitment to stand for election.

8. Will I get paid?

Councillors are not paid a salary, but they are entitled to receive modest financial compensation called an 'allowance' and expenses. This ensures they are not left out of pocket by covering costs such as travel to and from meetings and recognises the time devoted to council business on behalf of local people.

For more information and to download all of the Candidate application forms please visit:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Annual Town Meeting will be held this year in the **Council Chamber at Thatcham Town Council Offices**, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham, RG18 3HF on **Thursday 23rd March**. **Doors will open at 6pm with the meeting starting at 6:30pm**. This year the Town Council is inviting organisations and groups representing young people in the local area to make presentations at the meeting. Residents will also have the opportunity to meet Town and District Councillors, view reports and receive presentations detailing what has been achieved in the last municipal year.

Questions for Councillors or Presenters can either be submitted in advance of the meeting, by calling 01635 863592 or emailing enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk or raised during the open forum on the evening.

Alternatively, if you can't make it in person, join us on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 832 9975 7462

Passcode: 23082



Thatcham's ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2023

Electors of Thatcham are warmly invited to attend **YOUR** Town's Annual Meeting

Come and meet and put questions to your Town & District Councillors and representatives from Thames Valley Police

Plus Guest Speakers

Date
Thursday 23rd March at 6:30pm
Doors open 6pm

Venue
Thatcham Town Council
Brownsfield Road

Refreshments

Full details can be found on the Thatcham Town Council website or follow the event on Facebook

01635 863592 @ThatchamTC
enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk
www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

LAURA FARRIS MP PARLIAMENT TOURS



Laura Farris MP, invites her constituents to enjoy a free tour around the Palace of Westminster.

The tour takes in a number of historical areas including the Chambers of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the State Rooms, Central Lobby and the historic Westminster Hall.

Available dates are as follows:

Monday 6 March at 11:00
Monday 20 March at 11:00
Monday 17 April at 11:00
Monday 24 April at 11:00
Friday 12 May at 15:00
Monday 5 June at 11:00
Monday 19 June at 11:00

The list is constantly updated on her website and if any of the dates aren't suitable, alternative dates can also be booked directly with her office.

Website: www.laurafarris.org.uk/events

Phone: 01635 551070

Email: laura.farris.mp@parliament.uk

Mail: Laura Farris MP, Park Street Offices, Park Street, Newbury, RG14 1EA

EVENTS 2023

Thatcham Town Council is delighted to announce it's **2023 programme of events**. The calendar begins with Town wide celebrations for King Charles III Coronation. See www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk and Facebook/ThatchamTC as more details are released. If you are thinking of holding your own street party then visit West Berkshire Council for information on temporary road closures and apply by 31st March <https://westberks.gov.uk/temporaryroadclosure>.

We hope to see as many residents as possible at **Thatcham Family Fun Day on 25th June**. This event has grown enormously in recent years and this year will be our biggest one yet with even more stalls, food areas and attractions!



MAY 5	CORONATION CELEBRATIONS TBC
JUN 25	THATCHAM FAMILY FUN DAY HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 11am - 4pm
JUL 16	UNITED SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE LONDON ROAD CEMETERY 3pm
OCT 6-15	THATCHAM FESTIVAL VARIOUS VENUES ACROSS TOWN
NOV 12	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY TOWN CENTRE & WAR MEMORIAL 10.30am
DEC 1	WARMING UP FOR CHRISTMAS THATCHAM BROADWAY Entertainment from 5pm, lights 7pm
DEC 10	CIVIC CAROL CONCERT ST MARY'S CHURCH 4pm

CONTACT THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCILLORS

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

Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham

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

Thatcham West

Jeff Brooks - Mayor	
Mark Lillycrop	07717 858284
David Lister	
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	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 Office 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

Follow us on social media to receive regular local news and information.



@ThatchamTC

