



THATCHAM TOWN NEWSLETTER

Autumn/Winter 2024

Historic Town, Thriving Community

CONTENTS

- **Local Neighbourhood Development Plan:** pg. 2
- **Remembrance Sunday:** pg. 4
- **Warming Up For Christmas:** pg. 5
- **Community News:** pg. 6 & 7
- **Report an issue:** pg. 8

Council Surgery

You are invited to meet with a Thatcham Town Councillor and a District Councillor for Thatcham on Thatcham Broadway.

Whether you seek information, advice, or wish to enquire about our services, your elected representatives are here to help.

Saturday 2nd November, 10 am - 12 pm

Friday 6th December, 4pm - 6pm

Saturday 1st February, 10 am - 12 pm

Council Meetings

All Council meetings are held in the 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:

Finance and General Purposes

Monday 28th October

Events

Monday 4th November

Town Centre

Monday 11th November

Planning and Highways

Tuesday 19th November

Full Council

Monday 25th November

Recreation and Amenities

Monday 2nd December

Have you taken a beautiful photo of Thatcham which could appear on the front page of the next Newsletter?

Send high resolution images to enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Photo: The Jubilee Sensory Garden, Brownsfield Road by Hayley Scard

THATCHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Thatcham is embarking on an exciting journey by developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), giving local residents, businesses with significant premises in Thatcham and other stakeholders with interest in the town the opportunity to influence its future development.

Spearheaded by the Thatcham Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group, this plan is a unique chance for the community to come together and shape how the town grows over the coming years.

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

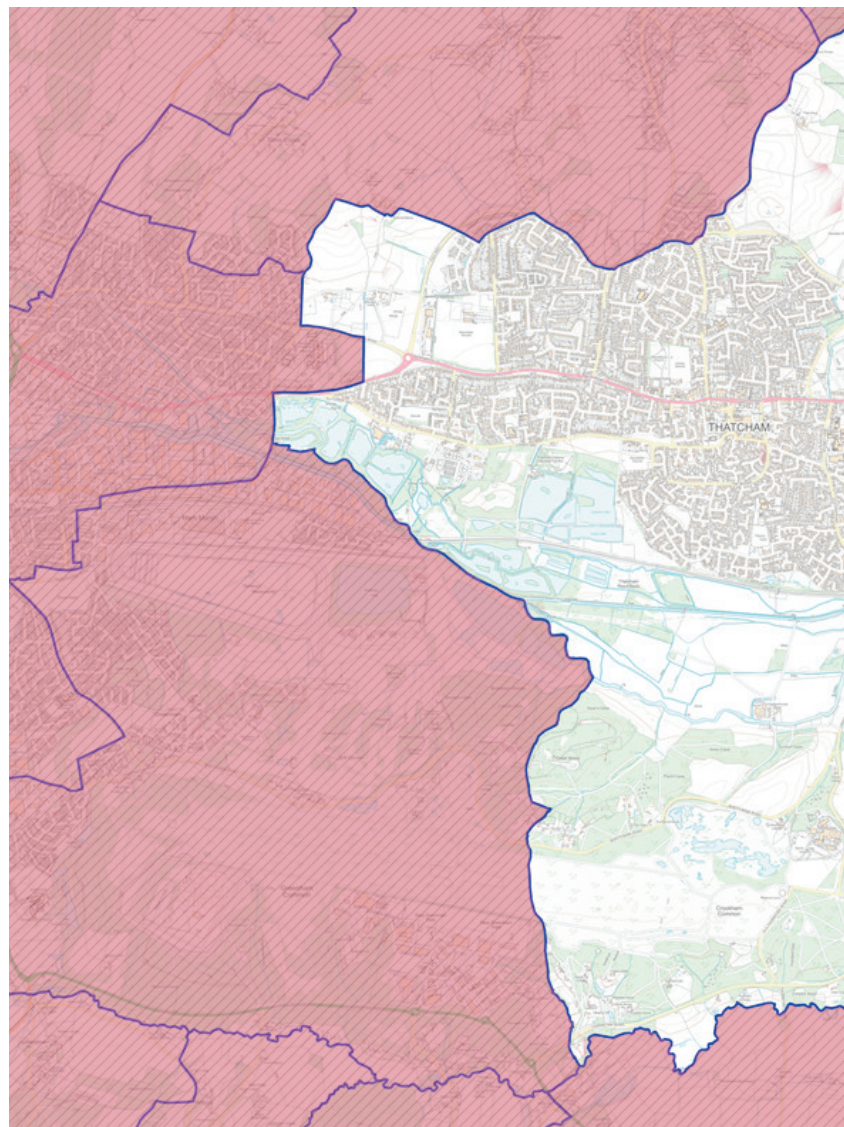
A **Neighbourhood Development Plan** is a community-led framework that guides the future development, regeneration, and conservation of a local area. Created by residents and businesses in consultation with local authorities, it addresses a range of issues such as housing, infrastructure, environmental preservation, and community facilities. Once adopted, the plan becomes part of the official planning policy used by local councils to assess future planning applications. This means it carries real weight in shaping Thatcham's future.

The **Thatcham NDP** will focus on the diverse areas of our parish, including the urban centre, rural communities like Crookham, and key commercial areas like Colthrop Industrial Estate. The aim is to strike a balance between preserving what makes Thatcham special and addressing the future needs of residents and businesses alike. By developing the NDP, we can ensure that future growth is sustainable, thoughtful, and community-focused.

What Could the Outcomes Be?

The Neighbourhood Plan offers exciting possibilities. Once completed, it could include:

- **Housing Policies:** Ensuring that any new developments meet the needs of local people, and that they are designed in harmony with the character of our town.
- **Economic Growth:** Supporting local businesses shaping the development of Colthrop Industrial Estate



Join the NDP Steering Group to shape the future of your community. Your input is vital in developing a neighbourhood plan that reflects local needs and aspirations. Make your voice heard today!

- **Green Spaces and Environment:** Protecting our natural areas while also addressing concerns like flooding and sustainability.
- **Community Facilities:** Provisions for recreational spaces, ensuring our town grows in a way that supports all its residents.
- **Transport and Infrastructure:** Improving transport links and ensuring our roads could handle any potential future development, while promoting eco-friendly options like walking and cycling.

How Can You Get Involved?

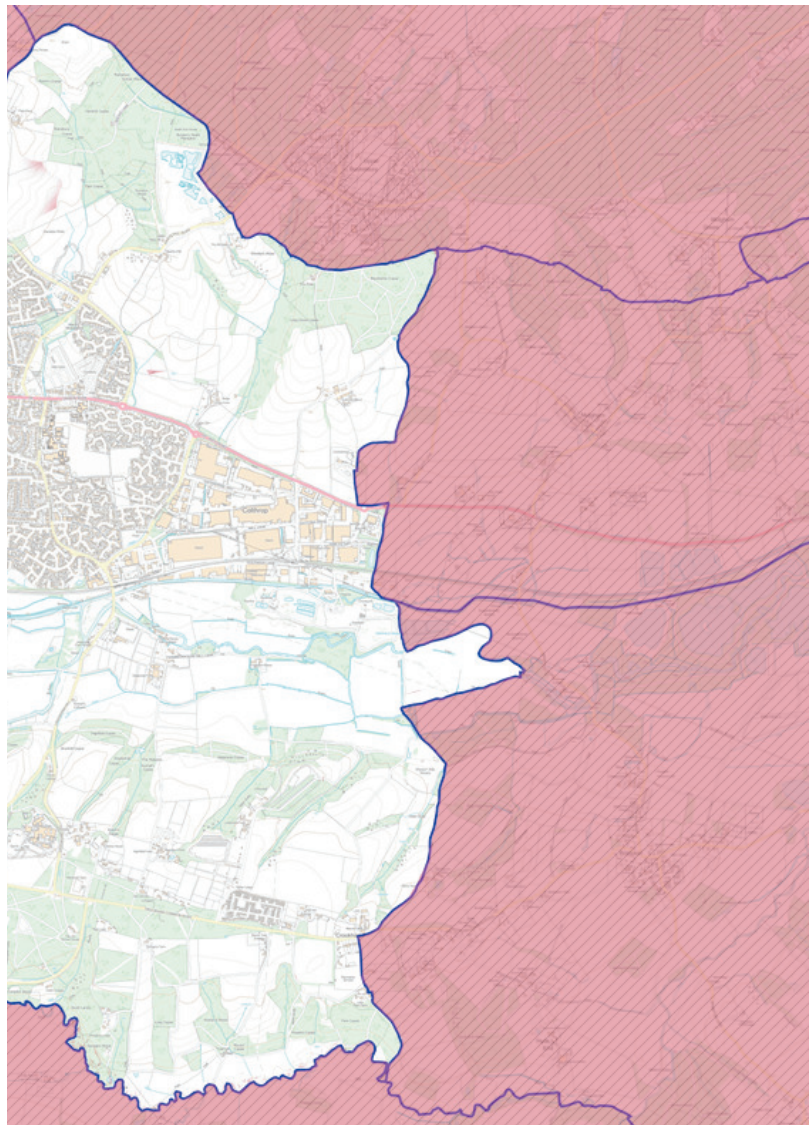
This is your plan, and we want everyone in Thatcham to have a say in its development. The Steering Group will lead the project. However, we need your input! Here's how you can participate:

- **Attend a Working Group:** Several groups focus on key areas like housing, transport, and the environment. No expertise is necessary—just a passion for the future of Thatcham.
- **Public Consultations:** As the plan progresses, there will be formal consultations where you can review proposals and give feedback.
- **Spread the Word:** Encourage your friends, family, and neighbours to get involved. The more voices we have, the better the final plan will reflect the needs of our whole community.

As a community, we can create a Neighbourhood Development Plan that will ensure Thatcham remains a great place for future generations to live, work, and grow.

To register your interest in participating in a working group, please email enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

To keep up to date with the Neighbourhood Development Plan visit www.thatcham.online



WHAT'S ON

Remembrance Parade & Service Sunday 10th November, 10.45am

With over 700 Parade participants of local uniformed groups including military contingents, **Remembrance Sunday** is a commemorative **Parade and Service** which every year is supported by the communities of Thatcham.

The Parade leaves Thatcham Broadway at 10.30am and makes its way to Thatcham's War Memorial where a service takes place at 11am. There is also a service at St Marys Church which starts at approximately 11.45am. The A4 is closed between Park Lane and the Catholic Hall from 10.30am until midday. The Parade forms up in the Kingsland Shopping Centre car park from 10am. Vehicle access to the car park will be restricted with parking limited until midday.



The Parade is visible from The Broadway and High Street from 10.30am as it makes its way to the Parade Ground. A rolling road closure of The Broadway and High Street will mean that between 10.30am and 10.45am and estimated times of 11.20am and 11.45am access through the Town will be via Lower Way and The Moors.

This year please join us in a creative tribute to honour those who served and sacrificed. We invite you to adorn benches, trees, and other public spaces with vibrant, knitted, or crocheted poppies. Let's create a beautiful, heartfelt display across the whole town. Individuals, Groups or clubs can decorate a tree, bench and other public spaces and work together to make a larger display.
www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/events

A Night To Remember

The Mayor of Thatcham presents her fundraising

Barn Dance

Tickets £6 per person

Thatcham Rugby Club, RG18 3BN

Friday 22nd November

Ticket Link:





Warming Up For Christmas Friday 6th - Sunday 8th December

Thatcham Town Centre is once again gearing up to **Warm Up for Christmas** with an exciting weekend of festive activities, including the **Christmas Lights Switch-On**, a special **Christmas Market** with stage performances, the **Santa Fun Run**, and a **Civic Carol Concert**.

Friday 6th December – Christmas Lights Switch-On

The festive fun begins at 5pm with stalls offering seasonal gifts, food, and refreshments. Entertainment starts at 5.30pm, building up to the grand Christmas Lights Switch-On at 7.30pm. This year’s theme is **Victorian Christmas**, and Thatcham High Street and Broadway will be closed to traffic to make room for even more attractions. Expect a magical evening with a dazzling display of lights, music, and a special appearance from Santa Claus himself! The night will feature live performances, carol singing, dancers, and a festive atmosphere throughout.

Saturday 7th December – Christmas Market

Starting at 10am, the Christmas Market will take over Broadway. It’s the perfect place to find unique, locally sourced gifts while supporting Thatcham businesses. Entertainment will continue throughout the day, with performances taking place in front of the giant Christmas Tree.

Sunday 8th December – Santa Fun Run and Civic Carol Concert

Sunday offers two wonderful events. During the day, the Rotary Club of Thatcham and District will host the **Santa Fun Run**, a joyful event for all ages. At 3pm, St Mary’s Church will hold the **Civic Carol Concert**, a beautiful and traditional way to conclude the weekend’s festivities.

Design the Mayor of Thatcham’s Christmas Card

The Town Mayor of Thatcham challenges you to design her Christmas card for this year. Prizes to be won plus the accolade of seeing your design in print!

We have two categories for entries:

- Hand drawn design
- Digital design or photograph

Please email your design (minimum of A5 size) to enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk or post to the below address by the 30th of November. Please include your name, contact details and age (if under 18).

The competition is not open to Thatcham Town Council Officers, members or their close relatives.



Thatcham Town Council would like to give a heartfelt thank you to our generous sponsors of Warming up for Christmas 2024.

Tomato Energy: Our Gold Sponsor, whose generous support is lighting up this festive season.

Newbury Building Society: Our Silver Sponsor, playing a vital role in spreading Christmas cheer.

XTRAC: Proud sponsor of our wonderful Christmas tree

We’ve got that festive sing-along energy

Tariffs designed for the life you live



Find a tariff
made for you
[Tomato.energy](https://tomato.energy)

tomatoenergy
Power to the People

COMMUNITY NEWS

Baby Memorial Garden Is Soon Underway

Thatcham Town Council have been raising money to develop an area of London Road Cemetery to create a calm reflection garden within the children's burial area.

In 2017 West Berkshire Sands Group approached Thatcham Town Council on behalf of the many local parents of lost children to create this garden as many parents in Thatcham do not have an area to visit dedicated to their own loved ones.

Fundraising events were held by West Berkshire Sands Group in 2017; with a total of £13,496.22 being raised including donations from other events and from the community.

With further donations from The Forget Me Not fund, individuals and match-funding from The Good Exhcnge, The Town Council have now committed to completing the project, with works beginning in early 2025



The design includes a Memorial Bay to the left of the current 'baby section', and a Memorial Garden to the right, with each area being enclosed by laurel hedging. They will include wooden benches, sympathetic planting and the garden will include a statue providing a place for plaques to be added. The hedging will provide privacy but also separate this area from the car park which is situated close by.

Although we have now reached our target we are still accepting donations, with all additional money enabling us to plant more flowers and trees. You can donate on the Good Exchange website, which can be found on the QR code below.



New Football posts on Kennet Heath

Thatcham Town Council has installed new football goal posts at Kennet Heath Open Space. Requested by the West Berkshire Youth Council, this exciting development is part of the Town Council's ongoing commitment to offering free and low-cost recreational facilities and promoting healthy, active lifestyles among Thatcham's young people.

In addition to the new goal posts, Thatcham Town Council is pleased to announce that picnic benches will be installed in Kennet Heath in the coming months. These benches will provide comfortable seating allowing families and friends to relax and enjoy the park and outdoor gym equipment.

Huge thanks to West Berkshire Council and Greenham Trust's Let's Get Active Scheme for enabling this to go ahead.



Do you have any news you want to share in our next edition of the newsletter or on our social media?

Email community.engagement@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

For up to date announcements on road closures, events and community news follow us on social media!
@ThatchamTC

Thermal Image Camera

As part of the Town Council's environmental actions, and to support our community, we've invested in a thermal image camera that residents and organisations can loan, free of charge, to capture valuable data about hot and cold spots of their home or workplace. The camera generates images that can be downloaded and used to identify potential areas for maintenance to improve the property's insulation. A small, refundable, cash deposit is required, along with proof of ID. To loan the camera, please contact the Town Council office on 01635 863592.



Drinking Water Station in Broadway

We are pleased to announce the installation of a new drinking water station in Thatcham Broadway, offering a convenient and sustainable way to stay hydrated while out and about. Located in the heart of the town, this eco-friendly initiative encourages the reduction of single-use plastic bottles by providing free access to clean, safe drinking water.

Are You Eligible For Pension Credits?

Pension Credit offers extra financial support for those over State Pension age and on a low income. In addition to boosting living costs, it can help with housing costs such as ground rent or service charges. In West Berkshire alone it is estimated that around 600 pensioners have not yet claimed pension credit or applied to see if they're eligible.

Separate from the State Pension, Pension Credit is available even if you have other income, savings, or own your home. On average, eligible recipients can receive £2,677 a year. Pension Credit may also open the door to further support, including Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, social tariffs, the Warm Home Discount, cheaper broadband, free TV licences, lower water bills, and the Winter Fuel Payment.

The Department for work and Pensions will be sending letters to pensioner households inviting them to claim if they are eligible. The closing date for applications is 21 December, but we recommend you apply as soon as possible.

For more information and to check if you're eligible, visit www.gov.uk/pension-credit.

Host your next event with us

Whether you're looking for a hall to have your child's birthday party, a space to run a new community class, or need a professional and quiet room to host meetings, we have you covered!

From just £14.50-£23 an hour, our spaces at the Town Council Chamber, Frank Hutchings Community Hall or Burdwood Community Centre could be just place. If you are interested, please visit the Thatcham Town Council website.



Your Feedback Welcomed

We hope you enjoy the articles in the Thatcham Town Newsletter. To send feedback, suggestions, or to report an issue

Online form:

www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/contact_us

Email: enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01635 863592

WhatsApp or text: 07503 634761

Visit a Council Surgery

www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/faqs

To report a problem to West Berkshire Council please visit:

www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem

Councillors

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

Thatcham Central

Iain Cottingham [D] 07813 922709

Jay Lunn

Tom McCann

Petra Pemberton

Stephanie Steevenson [D]

Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham

John Boyd 07853 151871

Owen Jeffery [D] 07968 251370

Val Watts

Thatcham North East

Mike Cole 07549 164506

Jeremy Cottam [D]

Lee Dillon [D]

Dave Lunn

Ben Schiffer-Harte

Thatcham West

Jeff Brooks [D]

Mark Lillycrop 07823 322958

Justin Pemberton [D]

Simon Pike 07787 154070

Suzanne Adamantos 07721 865268

[D] = also West Berkshire District Councillor

Thatcham Town Council is responsible for:

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



West Berkshire District Council is responsible for:

- Tax and Benefits
- Business Rates
- Rubbish and Recycling
- Care and Housing
- Planning
- Roads, Transport and Parking
- Schools, Learning and Libraries
- Consumer and Environmental Protection
- Leisure, Parks and Countryside
- Green dog waste bins



West Berkshire District Council Offices

TEL: 01635 551111 (main switchboard)

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

Thatcham Town Council Monthly eNewsletter

Would you like to receive news and updates from Thatcham Town Council more regularly? You can sign up to our monthly e-newsletter directly into your inbox!

☐ I agree that Thatcham Town Council can send me the monthly e-newsletter and ad hoc news to the email address below.

Email Address: _____

Full Name: _____

Post Code: _____

Please drop this form into the Town Council offices or scan this QR code to sign up online



Please recycle
this newsletter

