

YOUR BOROUGH



Christmas bin collections - see page 7

A free publication provided by Havant Borough Council - Issue two, December 2023



In this issue:

- Christmas bin collections
- The Masterplan for Waterlooville moves forward
- A guide to help you with the Cost of Living

Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Hello... and welcome!

I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas at this, the end of yet another eventful and challenging year.

While Christmas is a very special time of year for many of us, it can also be a lonely one for others. So please take time to check on friends and neighbours who may not have family around at this time of year.

There have been some outstanding performances from council services this year, including our Environmental Health team who have won a prestigious award from the RSPCA for our dedication to animal welfare. We have also been presented with a Gold Award for all our work supporting the Armed Forces.

We pride ourselves on our fantastic Link Up Youth Hub, who this year celebrated its first year of ensuring our young people have the best start in life. In just one year it has helped more than 350 young people aged 16-24 years, with access to easy, informal access to education, employment, and wellbeing advice.

This year we have also pledged to invest £2million into helping our residents who find themselves homeless and in need of our assistance.

We want to continue to attract investment and regeneration into the borough, and recently confirmed that Feria Urbanism, will undertake work on our vision, and yours, on the Masterplan for Waterlooville. Chosen for their innovative ideas and technical expertise, hold a strong emphasis on engaging with communities.

We are moving forward as an organisation, and we have many exciting things planned for 2024.



Councillor Alex Rennie,
Leader of Havant Borough
Council

Our Christmas opening times

You can come to The Plaza or contact us during these days and times over the festive period...

- **Up to and including Friday 22 December - Normal working hours (9am – 5pm)**
- **Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 December - Closed**
- **Wednesday 27 to Friday 29 December inclusive - Normal working hours**
- **Monday 1 January - Closed**
- **Tuesday 2 January onwards - Normal working hours.**

If you need to contact us for any service provided to you by Havant Borough Council outside of office hours and it cannot wait until the next working day, there is a limited emergency out-of-hours service. Please call our main switchboard on **023 9244 6019**.

Many of our services are available 24/7 on our website www.havant.gov.uk.



A borough with a future

Waterlooville

Havant Borough Council is delighted to be working with Feria Urbanism to develop proposals for the regeneration of Waterlooville town centre.

Appointed in October, following a very competitive procurement process that attracted interest from many leading national and international consultancies, Feria Urbanism were selected for its extensive master planning expertise.

Selected because of its commitment to engaging with local people and organisations to develop and test ideas, will mean that over the coming months this work will look at how Waterlooville can evolve over the short, medium and long term as a thriving and attractive town centre.

There will be a range of opportunities to give your views, influence the development of ideas and give feedback on outline plans as these are developed – we will promote these opportunities as widely as possible and welcome your involvement.

With town centres up and down the country facing challenges, there are no easy solutions, but the plan will help encourage and guide future investment to make Waterlooville a busy destination at the heart of its local communities.



Vacant Shop Scheme

As part of the council's short-term interventions to improve Waterlooville Town Centre Havant Borough Council has allocated £140,000 of UK Shared Prosperity funding to support the Vacant Shop Scheme.

Since launching the scheme back in August, we have had an overwhelming response with 30 expressions of interest from businesses looking to start-up or expand into the area.

We have received interest from a variety of business sectors including retail, leisure, entertainment and hospitality, food and beverage, arts and culture, wellbeing and beauty, as well as educational and childcare services.

The successful applicants have now submitted a full application and we are hopeful that some of these projects will be open in time for the Christmas trading period and beyond.



Check the scores on the Christmas restaurant doors

Good company and great food are the ingredients for a great meal out during the festive season – and, as well as checking the menu, it's worth checking the food hygiene rating if you are eating out this Christmas.

The food hygiene rating scheme helps people with decisions, by providing information about hygiene standards. Restaurants, pubs, cafes, takeaways and hotels are included in the scheme, in addition to retail outlets such as supermarkets and other food shops.

Each business is given a hygiene rating when it is inspected by a food safety officer from Havant Borough Council, to show how closely the business is meeting the requirements of food hygiene law.

Businesses in the area are rated on a scale ranging from a top rating of 5 which is 'very good' to a rating of 0 which means 'improvement necessary'.

Checking could not be easier, if you're out and about, check for the green and black sticker in the window; if you can't see one, just ask or go to the Food Standards Agency website at www.food.gov.uk/ratings.



Funding good causes in the borough



We now have 110 local good causes signed up, all of which are raising funds through ticket sales. 60p from every ticket sold goes directly to good causes.

As well as doing something great for your local community you could win weekly cash prizes of **£25, £250, £2,000**, or the jackpot prize of **£25,000**. Tickets cost **£1** with every ticket having a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize.

You can buy tickets online at www.havantlottery.co.uk or by calling **023 9319 0011**. Players must be 18 years and over.



Awarded Gold for our commitment to Armed Forces

A commitment to support current and former military personnel and their families has earned Havant Borough Council national recognition.

The authority has been given a Gold Award under the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Support Scheme, the highest honour which recognises the positive role employers play in supporting the armed forces community.

To achieve the accolade the council has made a pledge and demonstrated its support to defence and the armed forces community, and align its values with the Armed Forces Covenant.

Havant Borough Council has created an Armed Forces Stakeholder group, which is made up of local groups, organisations, services and businesses that work with, or provide support for members of the Armed Forces, their families and veterans.

The council also offers support to its employees who are linked to the Armed Forces community.



ARMED FORCES COVENANT

EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

GOLD AWARD 2023

How voting may change for you

A Parliamentary Boundary Review will change Meon Valley constituency to a new Fareham and Waterlooville constituency. This will come into effect when the next Parliamentary Election is held.

Following a Local Government Boundary Review, the borough will also have new ward boundaries in place for the elections in May 2024. Electors may find that they are now in a new ward or that their polling station may have changed. The main changes will be:

- A reduction in the number of councillors from 38 to 36
- A reduction in wards from 14 to 12
- All ward boundaries have changed
- Some existing wards will have new names
- All wards will have three councillors.

Postal and proxy changes

If you know that you won't be able to get to the polling station on polling day, you can vote by post or ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you, which is called a proxy vote.

You can now apply online to vote by post and for some types of proxy vote. You also need to prove your identity when applying, by providing your National Insurance number.

For more information visit electoralcommission.org/waystovote or call their helpline on **0800 328 0280**.

How we apply to vote by post and proxy in England is changing



The Electoral Commission

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT



Playing around the borough

We have been continuing our planned works to get much-needed makeovers to our play areas around the borough.

Thanks to an investment of £385,000 from a number of funding sources, play areas in Leigh Park, Waterlooville, Bedhampton, and Emsworth have received significant refurbishment.

Engagement with local residents has ensured the design and equipment within these play areas is what's wanted. Sites include inclusive and sensory equipment, and accessible paths to seating areas meaning that the most accessible play is now available.



Natural defences

We continue to review all our vulnerable open spaces that frequently have unauthorised encampments.

Installing a range of security measures across the borough including installing wooden posts, height barriers, ditches and bunds, along with additional planting where possible, has already prevented encampments in some areas.

Earlier this year, Bartons Triangle in West Leigh underwent prevention works that have proved successful in preventing unauthorised encampments.

Depending on the circumstances of each encampment in the borough, the eviction process takes between 48 hours to five working days to carry out, with clean-up costs ranging from almost nothing to several thousand pounds.



Ready for the tennis season

A number of Tennis facilities in the borough have undergone major improvements thanks to £230,000 of investment from The Lawn Tennis Association, The Government and Havant Borough Council.

The investment has funded court resurfacing, new access technology, nets, posts and colour coating.

Tennis courts at Purbrook Heath, Waterlooville Recreation Ground, Havant Park and Cowplain Recreation Ground are available to book via havantparkstennis.org.uk. Here you will also find information on junior and adult coaching programmes.



Christmas bin collection dates

During the Christmas and New Year period revised dates will be in place for rubbish and recycling collections. Please remember to put your bin out by 7am.

USUAL COLLECTION DATE	REVISED COLLECTION DATE
Monday 25 December	Wednesday 27 December
Tuesday 26 December	Thursday 28 December
Wednesday 27 December	Friday 29 December
Thursday 28 December	Saturday 30 December
Friday 29 December	Tuesday 2 January
Monday 1 January	Wednesday 3 January
Tuesday 2 January	Thursday 4 January
Wednesday 3 January	Friday 5 January
Thursday 4 January	Saturday 6 January
Friday 5 January	Monday 8 January
Monday 8 January	Tuesday 9 January
Tuesday 9 January	Wednesday 10 January
Wednesday 10 January	Thursday 11 January
Thursday 11 January	Friday 12 January
Friday 12 January	Saturday 13 January

Usual collection days will resume from **Monday 15 January**.

The **garden waste collection service** will be suspended between **Monday 25 December and Friday 12 January 2024**.

If a glass bank is full due to seasonal demand, please do not leave glass by the bank. Visit www.havant.gov.uk/bin-collections/recycling/glass-recycling-sites for a list of alternative sites.

Household Waste and Recycling Centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day.

SANTA'S SCAM IN A VAN

If someone dumps your waste illegally, YOU could be fined £400 or more

If you're thinking of getting someone to dispose of any unwanted items, make sure you use an approved licensed waste carrier.

Items disposed of incorrectly, known as fly-tipping, carries a fine that you are legally responsible for unless you can prove who you used was licensed.

Leaving glass on the floor around a glass bank or dumping your unwanted garden waste over your fence is also fly-tipping.

Many items can be taken to your local household waste recycling centre for free.



2024 Rubbish & Recycling Calendar

North area

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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28	29	30	31			

JULY						
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28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY						
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AUGUST						
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MARCH						
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31						

SEPTEMBER						
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APRIL						
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OCTOBER						
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DECEMBER						
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Don't forget!
Please remember to put your bin out by 7am on the day of collection!

KEY

- Put out your rubbish bin
- Put out your recycling bin



South area

JANUARY						
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JULY						
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FEBRUARY						
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AUGUST						
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MARCH						
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SEPTEMBER						
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APRIL						
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OCTOBER						
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MAY						
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NOVEMBER						
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JUNE						
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DECEMBER						
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Recycle right this Christmas



With all of the extra food, gifts, and packaging over the festive season please remember to recycle as much as you can.

Follow our 'naughty and nice' list to make sure you're recycling the right items.

Real Christmas trees can be recycled if you subscribe to the Garden Waste Collection Service, as long as they are small and chopped into pieces no bigger than 3 inches or 75mm in diameter.

- NICE LIST**
- CARDS AND PAPER WITHOUT GLITTER
 - CARDBOARD PACKAGING (WITH PLASTIC BITS REMOVED)
 - FOOD AND DRINK CANS
 - AEROSOL CANS
 - PLASTIC BOTTLES
 - NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES



NAUGHTY LIST

- GIFT WRAP
- PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS/BLACK SACKS
- DRINKS CARTONS
- PLASTIC/POLYSTYRENE PACKAGING
- GENERAL HOUSEHOLD RUBBISH
- SWEETIE TUBS

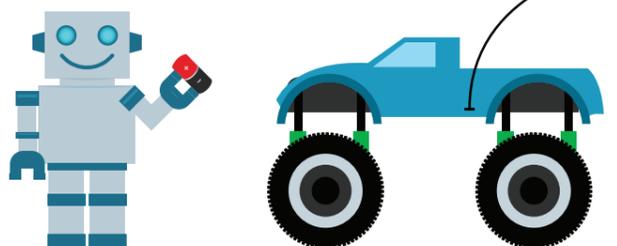
Batteries



Many batteries – including rechargeable Lithium-ion batteries – are small, and can be found in household items, including toys, toothbrushes, phones, e-cigarettes, and laptops.

Batteries should never be disposed of in household rubbish or recycling bin. When batteries get damaged they may explode or ignite, which can pose serious risks to property and personal safety.

We're asking residents to dispose of their used batteries responsibly by placing them in designated battery recycling bins. These can be found at our Household Waste Recycling Centres, or in most supermarkets.



On ya e-bike

Thinking of gifting someone an e-bike or e-scooter this Christmas?

Lithium batteries are contained within e-bikes and scooters, which are dangerous if left unattended to charge.



Overheating may occur, especially if the battery and charger are not compatible or of poor quality, which can then cause them to explode.

Do not leave lithium batteries to charge overnight while you're asleep, or in your escape route, and always unplug once the battery is fully charged.

(Use of e-scooters on the public highway remains illegal except where highway authorities have designed zones where they can be used.)

Cost of living special

If you are worried about the cost of living, help and support is available.

Maximising your income/benefits

Universal Credit

If you are working age and already claim benefits, you may be better off if you move to Universal Credit www.gov.uk/universal-credit or call **0800 328 5644**

Pension Credit

Help with Council Tax and free TV licences over the age of 75. To check if you, or a family member might be entitled, visit www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator or call **0800 99 1234**

Housing Benefit

If you are pension-age live in rented accommodation and are on a low income you may be able to claim help with your rent via www.havant.gov.uk/benefits

Council Tax Support

If you pay Council Tax and are on a low income you may be able to claim Council Tax Support. Find out more at www.havant.gov.uk/benefits

Discretionary Housing Payments

If you are in private rented or Housing Association accommodation and your rent is not covered in full by Housing Benefit or the Housing Element of Universal Credit, the council has limited funding to support some shortfalls www.havant.gov.uk/benefits/housing-benefit/discretionary-housing-payments

For more general benefit advice, visit www.gov.uk/welfare or call us on **023 9244 6019**

Housing

If you need other housing advice or are homeless or at risk of being made homeless, the Housing Advice and Prevention Team can provide help and support. You can contact them on **029 9244 6379** or visit www.havant.gov.uk/housing/housing-advice-and-homelessness

Managing your money

If you are struggling with managing your money or need advice about financial support and benefits, the following organisations may be able to help.

The important thing is not to delay in making contact so you can get the advice you need.

Citizens Advice Havant

A free service offering confidential, independent, impartial advice to people who live or work in the Havant borough. www.citizensadvicehavant.org or call **08108 278 7809**.

Connect to Support Hampshire

Have links to organisations that can help with a wide range of money-related issues including debt, emergency food and keeping your home warm. Visit www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk

Money Advice Service

Free and impartial money advice www.moneyadvice.org.uk.

The Government have a dedicated website with details of all the help available for households www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk



£2million plan to help the homeless into temporary accommodation

Havant Borough Council has agreed to implement a temporary accommodation purchase programme which will result in the council being able to work in a more agile and commercial manner to purchase temporary accommodation.

As part of the agreed programme, the council will purchase property for use as temporary accommodation rather than relying on costly short-term solutions such as Bed and Breakfast placements.

Currently, the cost of temporary accommodation is substantial to the council – these excess costs are unfortunately irretrievable.

Having this agreed upon as part of our plan moving forward will assist the council in the ability to move faster in rehousing people in temporary accommodation.



Electrical safety in rented homes

Landlords operating in the private rented sector including councils and housing associations must make sure homes are safe and fit to live in throughout the tenancy.

Private landlords must make sure that all electrical installations are inspected and tested by a registered electrician.

The electrician should test, inspect and produce a report of the fixed electrical installations in the property. For example: wiring, plug sockets, light fittings, fuse boxes, electric showers, and extractor fans. Tenants should then be given a copy of the report.

These inspections should take place at least once every five years.

If your landlord (private sector only) has not inspected the electrical installation in the last five years or that installation is in poor condition, please contact us on **023 9244 6019**.

The Private Sector Housing Team has recently issued a number of financial penalties to landlords for failing to comply with their duties under the Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020.

The most recent penalty notice amounted to **£6,000** for failure to have a valid electrical installation condition report, failing to ensure the electrical installation was safe and then failing to comply with the subsequently served remedial notices.



New hosts sought for Ukrainian families across the borough

We are still in need of people to host Ukrainian families and individuals; especially for guests who have been in the borough for a while and need to move for employment, education, or other reasons.

A range of ongoing support is on offer, including a monthly thank you payment. Hosts also get support with all safeguarding and accommodation checks from Hampshire County Council.

Havant Borough Council also holds regular drop-in events, provides free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, and works with various supporting agencies to help with the transition.

If you want to offer support, you can become a sponsor through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. To find out more information, and to record your interest, visit www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine



Grow it Cook it Eat it



Grow it Cook it Eat it - is a community food growing project that encourages the community to get involved with producing locally grown vegetables. We have started preparing the land at the large allotment at Stockheath Lane in Leigh Park, ready to get growing next year.

Grow it Cook it Eat it provides:

- An opportunity for volunteers of all ages and experience
- Access to free fresh fruit and vegetables
- Gardening activities that offer great low impact exercise.

If you would like to be involved, as an individual or as a group – or you know someone who would benefit from getting out in the fresh air and meeting others please contact Carole Samuda at Havant Borough Council by emailing carole.samuda@havant.gov.uk or call **07887 991 814**.

Grow it, Cook it, Eat it is run by Havant Borough Council and funded by South Western Trains community fund.

Do you have an allotment? Do you know someone who grows vegetables? Did you know that surplus vegetables from growing areas can be donated to local pantries and Foodbanks?

You can take them directly to the Pantry at Park Community School, the Foodbank in Park Parade, Leigh Park, or any other Foodbank on our website, or contact the Community Team on partnerssupport@havant.gov.uk to arrange collection.

The future of Hayling's coast

Some excellent progress is being made on a strategy that will help to manage coastal flood and erosion risk for Hayling Island for the next 100 years. Havant's coastal management team, Coastal Partners, is working with engineering consultants to deliver a practical and sustainable plan for the Island's coastline in the 'Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy'.

Earlier this year the project team carried out assessments to help evaluate any environmental effects that may occur if the Strategy is implemented. The documents are available to view here - <https://coastalpartners.org.uk/project/hayling-island-coastal-management-strategy-16/>

Environmental regulators have provided useful feedback on the assessments and as 2024 approaches, their comments are being reviewed and integrated into the Strategy. Alongside this, comments from the 2022 public consultation are also helping to shape the future of Hayling's coastal management. A report detailing the public consultation, comments received and amendments to the Strategy can be found on the web link.

The new Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy will be taken forward to Havant Borough Council and the Environment Agency for approval and adoption in 2024.



Do you know what to do if there is a flood warning?

1. Be prepared, have a flood plan and bag ready.
2. Sign up for flood warnings and follow the advice provided.
3. Move family and pets to safety.
4. Turn off your gas, electricity and water supplies.
5. Move important items upstairs or to safety.



For more information visit www.havant.gov.uk/emergency-advice/flooding-advice

Sign up for Environment Agency flood alerts and warnings
<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings>

Winter birds have arrived!

Anyone who has spent time on the Havant coastline during the late autumn and winter months can't fail to have noticed the buzz of avian activity as we are joined by tens of thousands of wintering wildfowl and waders. It is a truly wonderful natural spectacle.

Perhaps the most visible (and audible) species is the Dark-bellied Brent Goose. These small, dark geese breed on the vast tundra of Arctic Siberia and move south and westwards in late summer to spend the winter months in the relatively balmy conditions of Atlantic north-west Europe. Following a refuelling and rest stop in the vast Wadden Sea off Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands, they arrive on our coast during October and depart again in March/April. Family groups migrate together, and young birds can easily be recognised by the pale margins to their back and wing feathers.

During their time with us, the geese will feed on marine grasses in the harbours as well moving inland to feed on grass and winter crops. During high tide periods, especially in late winter, huge flocks of geese will visit farmland and grasslands to feed and rest and at these times the birds are very vulnerable to disturbance.

It looks like 2023 has been a good breeding season so hopefully we will soon see large numbers of these charming birds gracing our coastline and fields.



Langstone Coastal Defence Scheme



How Langstone might look in future

In the future, Langstone will become more at risk of tidal flooding due to the effects of sea level rise. To counteract this risk, the Council, alongside the local community, is developing coastal management options that will preserve the landscape for future generations.

The options are now being finalised through the 'Detailed Design' stage and this winter the latest vision of the design will be shared in an exhibition with the community who has helped shape it.

For more info on the exhibition and visualisations of what the defences could look like visit: <https://coastalpartners.org.uk/project/langstone-coastal-defence-scheme/>

Together with feedback from the event, a recommendation will be made in 2024 to proceed to the next stage and include a full planning application.



Bargain activities to help you get fit and have fun!

Is getting fit and having fun a part of your New Year's resolution? If so, you're in luck! Get Up and Go are here to help improve your physical and mental well-being through friendly, informal activities.

Anyone over 18 with a physical or mental health condition – however mild - can take part in an activity. Booking is easy – just visit www.getupandgohavant.com to register.

Some popular courses previously on offer have included boxing, bowling, coastal rowing, paddleboarding, pilates, multi-sports, and many more.

More activities will be running in 2024, so why not start the new year the Get Up and Go way!



In partnership with

Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Horizon Wellbeing Hub

Guiding you to a **healthier, happier** you.

Visit us at Unit 4, The Meridian Centre,
Elm Lane, Havant, PO9 1UN

- Health checks
- Small group classes
- Introduction to physical activity

We're here to offer support to **anyone** looking to improve their health and wellbeing.

Come in and chat to us today!

Get your
Blood
Sugar and
Cholesterol
Checks for £15

FREE
Health and
Blood Pressure
Checks!

Horizon

[horizonlc.com](https://www.horizonlc.com)

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