

Dacorum life

Residents' magazine Summer 2022

Royal beacons lighting up
the skies for the Jubilee

Event
schedule
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Hello

Welcome to Dacorum Life, packed full of news and updates from Dacorum Borough Council. If you have any feedback about the magazine or any content you would like to see in future issues please get in touch.

For even faster news and updates why not follow us on social media? We're on all the popular platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Find them all at
www.dacorum.gov.uk/social-media

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You can apply, pay, report and contact us on our website for a range of services.
www.dacorum.gov.uk

Nice to know

- Dacorum Life is printed on paper produced by well-managed forests.
- It costs less than 19 pence per copy to print and distribute.
- Alternative formats are available: audio and large print.

Front cover: Her Majesty The Queen's Jubilee beacon lighting.



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

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Waste calendars available online

Your personalised 2022 Waste Collection Calendars are available to download from our website www.dacorum.gov.uk/mybins. From here you can check your upcoming collections and download your calendar as a PDF to keep on your digital device or print off a copy.

If you don't have online access please email recycle@dacorum.gov.uk or call 01442 228000 and ask for Waste Services to request a copy.

Keep connected

You can keep up to date with all the latest council news with regular updates straight to your inbox. It's quick and easy to sign up to our residents' email here www.dacorum.gov.uk/dacorum-life



Find us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Instagram.

Welcome

We're committed to working in partnership to create a borough which enables the communities of Dacorum to thrive and prosper, while funding regeneration to attract inward investors.

Welcome to the summer edition of Dacorum Life magazine which is filled with the latest news and events happening in the borough.

As we enter the summer season, we're getting use to restrictions being lifted and learning to live with COVID-19. I'm thrilled that we have a jam-packed summer events season that will enable us to come to together as a community and celebrate some fantastic events.

We will be kicking off the summer with a packed programme of events over the bank holiday weekend to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

On Thursday 2 June we will be hosting our Platinum Party in the Park – a free event in Gadebridge Park with live music and entertainment for all the family to enjoy which will end with the lighting of the Platinum Jubilee Beacon and a firework finale.

For full details of all the events taking place for the Jubilee please see pages five and 12-13 of this edition.

Later in June we will also be celebrating Armed Forces Day for the first time since 2019. It will be fantastic to welcome this well-loved event back to Hemel Hempstead.

I am also delighted to announce that the Queen's Baton Relay will come through Hemel Hempstead on Friday 8 July in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games

in Birmingham. This is the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay – an epic journey across the Commonwealth, with The Queen's Baton visiting all 72 nations and territories. To celebrate, we will be hosting a wellness festival in Gadebridge Park – for more details on this event, please check our website and Facebook page.

Our Splash Park is now open for the summer and our parks and green spaces are ready to welcome you now the warmer weather has arrived.

If you are looking for new places to explore make sure you take a look at our Hemel Green Walk Map (page four) which highlights walking routes around the town. You can also get more active by visiting our newly renovated Northridge Way basketball court which now provides players with a full-sized court.

Dacorum continues to be a popular location choice for many film production companies which is great for the local economy. Netflix has also donated a bench to us as part of our involvement with the production of After Life (page seven).

We are also focussing on local businesses with investment in our Dacorum's Den grant scheme for small businesses and driving inward investment with new initiatives like the The Big Hoot Hemel owl statues.

Wishing you a great summer.

Our priorities 2020-2025



Ensuring economic growth and prosperity



Building strong and vibrant communities



A clean, safe and enjoyable environment



Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery



Climate and ecological emergency



Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular for those most in need



Cllr Andrew Williams
Leader of the Council

News

Hemel Green Walk

Get fit and enjoy all that Hemel has to offer with our Hemel Green Walk map.

By following the trail you can see how easy it is to get around our neighbourhoods on foot and explore the many amazing green spaces that Hemel Hempstead and the surrounding areas has to offer including the Water Gardens, Gadebridge Park and Boxmoor.

Download the map on the LoyalFree app www.loyalfree.co.uk where you can vote for your favourite location. It can also be downloaded here www.dacorum.gov.uk/thehemelgreenwalk



New strategy to protect Ashridge Estate and Tring Woodlands

We commissioned ecological consultants, Footprint Ecology to undertake ecological and visitor surveys for the Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Their report revealed that more action is needed to help protect Ashridge Estate and Tring Woodlands, which are under increasing visitor pressure.

We are working with Natural England, Hertfordshire County Council, neighbouring authorities and the National Trust, who care for Ashridge Estate, to develop an interim mitigation strategy.

Until this mitigation strategy is in place, additional checks will be applied to all planning applications that involve the development of new homes (and some other types of development) within or close to the affected areas.

Further information, including FAQs for applicants is available on our website www.dacorum.gov.uk/SAC



Berkhamsted Leisure Centre

Over the last 12 months, we have been investigating the potential of replacing Berkhamsted Leisure Centre with a new, modern leisure facility on the existing site.

The proposed leisure centre could deliver a range of new and improved facilities including a teaching pool, a larger fitness suite and a spa with treatment zone.

In February we launched a six-week consultation to find out your views on the proposals for the new leisure centre. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our survey, or come along to one of the drop-in sessions.

The decision on whether to proceed with the replacement leisure centre is dependent upon a number of factors, including the results of the consultation, final costings and planning consent.

Visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/berkhamstedleisurecentre to find out more about our proposals for the new leisure centre.



Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee we're coming together as a community with celebrations and events over the extended bank holiday weekend.

Thursday 2 June marks 70 years since the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II - an historic milestone no previous monarch has achieved.

We're hosting a number of events including the Platinum Party in the Park on Thursday 2 June, in Gadebridge Park with free entertainment and performances for all the family to enjoy. The event ends with the lighting of the Platinum Jubilee Beacon and a firework finale.

On Saturday 4 June, in Gadebridge Park, we will be showing the live broadcast of the Platinum concert from Buckingham Palace, bringing together some of the world's biggest stars.

On Sunday 5 June, communities are encouraged to come together

to host their own Big Jubilee Lunch. Hemel Hempstead BID is organising a special event in Hemel town centre which will include live acts on the Rainbow Stage, children's activities and games and a vintage double decker bus which will be offering hop on rides around the town.

Cllr Julie Banks, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services said: "We are delighted to be able to mark this very special anniversary and to bring the community together to celebrate this unique occasion. We are proud that as a borough we can honour the Queen for her incredible 70-year reign and look forward to commemorating this wonderful achievement."

See pages 12 and 13 for the programme of events or visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/platinum-jubilee



Royal visits to Dacorum

We welcomed Her Majesty, The Queen, to the borough in 2016 with a Royal visit to Berkhamsted. The Queen was driven along Berkhamsted High Street as the cheering crowd waved flags, before arriving at St Peter's Church.

Previously, a young Queen Elizabeth II came to Hemel Hempstead in July 1952 visiting families who had moved into new council homes. The Square, in Adeyfield was renamed The Queen's Square, after her visit.





Antilly (Brandy the dog from After Life) with Dacorum's Filming Officer Pippa and Sara from Visit Herts on the 'Hope is everything' bench.

Working to support and grow our local businesses

With the lifting of the final COVID-19 restrictions earlier in the year, it has been fantastic to resume more community activities, and initiatives to help support our local businesses.



Cllr Alan Anderson
Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure

In February the Big Hoot made a very welcome visit to Hemel Hempstead. The trail of 12 brightly coloured owls proved to be a very popular attraction, with many of you following the trail around the town centre and Old Town. It was also a great boost for our local businesses, with many people stopping to pop into shops or for a refreshment break on the way around.

Our borough and its local businesses have been back on screen in series three of hit Netflix show *After Life*. The Old Town doubles up as the fictional town of Tambury, with businesses such as the House of Elliott, The Tea Tree and The Old Town Artichoke featuring in the series. Gadebridge Park was used for the filming of the fayre scene in the final episode.

Filming in our borough has become increasingly popular due to our proximity to London, its diverse locations, historic charm and the welcoming response visiting productions receive from local residents and businesses.

In March we were delighted to install a new 'hope is everything' bench in St Mary's Square in the Old Town, where part of the *After Life* series was filmed, in recognition of the famous bench featured in the series. You can read more about it on page seven.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have provided a range of support to our local businesses, including advice, training and the administration of government grants.

For the last two years, COVID-19 restrictions have prevented us from hosting our Dacorum's Den initiative.

I'm thrilled that we have been able to relaunch the initiative this year, providing our fledgling entrepreneurs with the opportunity to pitch for grant funding of up to £1,000 to help their businesses grow. Find out more on page seven.

As spring comes to a close and we head into the summer months, there is much to look forward to.

To find out more about the business advice and support available please email our economic development team business@dacorum.gov.uk



Dacorum's Den

Budding entrepreneurs have the chance to get a head start in business by pitching for a grant of up to £1,000.

Dacorum's Den - the local version of the popular TV series Dragons' Den - helps small businesses develop and grow. It has awarded £55,000 to local enterprises and has created additional local jobs.

Applications are open until Monday 6 June. Visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/dacorumsden or contact business@dacorum.gov.uk

This year's sponsors are: Sopra Steria, Britvic, Abode Bed, Epson, The Marlowes Shopping Centre, Heart Hertfordshire, Hemel Hempstead BID and Barnard & Webb Solicitors.

The Big Hoot

The Big Hoot free, family-friendly art trail flew into Hemel Hempstead in February - brought to you by us and Hemel Hempstead Business Improvement District (Hemel BID).

Thousands of you visited the 12 individually designed Big Hoot owls over the 10 weeks they roosted in the town centre. Over 1,000 of you followed the exciting trail on the Loyal Free app with hundreds more collecting trail maps from local businesses or downloading one from the Enjoy Dacorum or Hemel BID websites.

The trail was hugely popular with both families and walkers - encouraging many people to visit the town centre and Old Town high streets.

The trail was funded through the Welcome Back Fund - a European



Regional Development Fund (ERDF) - and Hemel Business Improvement District.

Thanks to everyone who visited - we hope you had a hoot! The winner of the Big Hoot Hemel trail competition will be announced on our social media channels.

Sign up to the LoyalFree app to support your local high streets www.loyalfree.co.uk

'Hope is everything' bench installed in Hemel after filming of hit show After Life

To mark the final series of the much-loved series After Life, Netflix has donated a bench to Hemel Hempstead.

The series is renowned for its scenes showing Ricky Gervais's leading character, Tony, on a bench at his local churchyard, as he continues to grieve for his wife Lisa, played by Kerry Godliman.

Hemel Hempstead was used for many locations in the village of Tambury and we have chosen to install the bench across the road from the location used as the newspaper office - used in real life by voluntary group

Community Action Dacorum in the heart of Hemel's Old Town High Street. Many local businesses in the High Street were used in the programme including the House of Elliott and The Artichoke.

The benches have been commissioned alongside suicide prevention charity Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) - who offer help, advice and information to anyone who is struggling or in crisis. Those who visit a bench will be able to access resources from CALM via a unique QR code with the wording "Life can be tough, but there's always hope. Campaign Against Living



Miserably (CALM) is by your side", and online by visiting www.thecalmzone.net/afterlife/

Ricky Gervais said: "We hope the benches will create a lasting legacy for After Life, as well as become a place for people to visit, and we are thrilled to be associated with CALM and the great work they do."



Celebrating our communities

This year marks a special year celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and we are bringing a packed programme of events over the long Bank Holiday weekend.



Cllr Julie Banks
Portfolio Holder for Community
and Regulatory Services

The exciting long weekend includes a local Trooping of the Colour, the lighting of a beacon and a live screening of the events taking place at Buckingham Palace on Saturday 4 June.

Find all the information to enjoy a memorable event on our special Jubilee centre spread on pages 12 and 13.

As well as Jubilee events, we are pleased to bring activities back to our communities such as our fourth Your Town 5K Hemel Run.

Whether you're looking to walk, jog or run, we invite you to take part on Sunday 17 July. Everyone who takes part will receive a medal and goodie bag. You can sign up here www.ticketsource.co.uk/mayors-office-dacorum-borough-council

Making physical activity accessible to all in the borough is a key priority and we are pleased to have refurbished and extended our full-size basketball court in Northridge Way. This great community project was sponsored by local company Whitton Electrical and we thank them for their support in helping us provide great facilities to our residents (see page 9).

Our four adventure playgrounds in Hemel Hempstead are also a great facility for our young people offering free play and various activities during term time and school holidays.

Another key asset to our borough is The Old Town Hall Theatre. Please take a look at the new website www.oldtownhall.co.uk

which makes finding out what's on and booking even easier.

We have so much to be proud of in our borough and the many voluntary groups, sports clubs and charities are a vital part of our community. We run our Community Grants scheme to support these valuable organisations - with grants of up to £3,000 to fund activities that will benefit the wellbeing of our residents.

We've awarded funding to a wide range of projects including Phoenix Entertainment who used their £500 grant to put on circus skills workshops in Hemel Hempstead town centre.

The summer round of our Community Grants scheme will open on Friday 1 July until Wednesday 31 August. Find out more information and apply on our website www.dacorum.gov.uk/grants

I very much hope our residents can make some special memories this summer, enjoying the Jubilee events and the many other aspects of our community that make Dacorum a great place to be.



New basketball court for Hemel Hempstead

We've refurbished and extended Northridge Way basketball court in Hemel Hempstead.

The court, used by local residents, up and coming youth basketball players along with players from both local clubs Hemel Sharks and Hemel Storm, has been resurfaced with new tarmac and has new hoops, fencing and a small seating area.



Thank you to Hemel Hempstead firm Whitton Electrical, based at Maylands, which sponsored the community project.

Healthy Hub Dacorum

The Healthy Hub runs on Tuesdays and Fridays at the South Hill Centre, Hemel Hempstead. From 10am - 4pm, you can drop in if you are experiencing an issue affecting your health and wellbeing.

We've supported residents with free advice and support on issues such as mental health, unemployment, debt and weight management.

www.healthyhubs.org.uk/



Keeping our borough clean

We've taken action to target anti-social behaviour such as littering by partnering with District Enforcement, a company that specialises in enviro-crime enforcement.

Since 1 November 2021, the company has been delegated the powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) of £80 should it witness people littering, failing to clean up after their dog or breaching other Public Spaces Protection Orders.

This is in line with our commitment to a firmer approach to making our borough a cleaner and safer place to live, work and visit.

More than 1,743 fines have been issued since enforcement began with improvements being seen in high foot-fall areas.

For more information visit

www.dacorum.gov.uk/district-enforcement

Get ready for an

adventure

Our Adventure Playgrounds are available for hall hire, venue hire, party hire and 3G pitch hire

**All four sites are available to hire
Monday-Friday 6:30pm to 10pm
Saturday and Sunday 9am to 10pm**

**Pitch hire is available seven days a week
Monday-Friday 6pm to 10pm
Saturday and Sunday 8.30am to 10pm**



Contact: Danny Taber
07854633317 or
Mathew Stedman
07568141854

[www.dacorum.gov.uk/
adventureplaygrounds](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/adventureplaygrounds)



A clean, safe and enjoyable environment



Working together to keep Dacorum green

I was delighted that so many people signed up to get involved in the Great British Spring Clean which took place between March and April this year.



Cllr Graham Barrett
Portfolio Holder for
Environmental Services

Most of our residents take a real pride in their area and they hate to see the irresponsible few spoiling things for most people by littering, fly-tipping and generally spoiling the environment. We have cracked down on offenders and will continue to take enforcement action against those caught littering and fly-tipping.

We really appreciate the many formal and informal groups

and individuals who litter pick regularly in their local area. We're committed to helping all residents who volunteer by providing necessary information and support.

If you would like to help keep your local streets clean, safe and green all year round, you can sign up to be a Street Champion here www.dacorum.gov.uk/street-champions

It was great news that five of our parks achieved green flag status yet again.

We have retained Green Flag Awards at Bunkers Park, Hemel Hempstead, Canal Fields, Berkhamsted, Chipperfield Common, Tring Memorial Garden and the Water Gardens, Hemel Hempstead

The green flags flying across Dacorum are a tribute to the efforts of both the staff and volunteers, who work tirelessly to make these spaces somewhere

residents and visitors can relax in, enjoy and be proud of.

Back in November, more than 170 residents from 87 households participated in the sixth annual Dacorum Love Food, Hate Waste challenge.

Annually, UK households waste 4.5 million tonnes of edible food, which amounts to around £700 for an average family per year - the equivalent of almost £60 a month!

So there's really no downside when it comes to reducing food waste. It saves families money, reduces the amount of food that ends up in our bins to be disposed of and helps to slow down global warming and deforestation.

It's important we all acknowledge that the small actions we each take at home add up to make a huge collective difference. When you waste food, you are wasting the resources that went into growing or producing it.



Litter-picking teams are champions

The Street Champions litter picking team continues to grow, with more than 580 registered volunteers from across the borough. The volunteers regularly help to tidy their local areas, at a time and place to suit them. Between August 2021 and February 2022, the team collected more than 320 bags of litter. Every quarter the champions also have the opportunity to enter into a prize draw to win prizes or vouchers.

To join the team, register online at www.dacorum.gov.uk/street-champions

Between March and April many community groups, Scouts and Brownies, faith groups, schools, families and individuals from across the borough participated in Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean 2022.

We can loan out litter-picking sticks all year round. We'll also arrange the collection of bags of litter and clear bags for any recyclable litter, such as plastic bottles and cans. To request litter-picking equipment, email cleansafegreen@dacorum.gov.uk with details of your event.



Nappy Natter

Choosing reusable nappies can reduce your family's carbon footprint by up to 40 per cent and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. In February, we co-hosted a 'Nappy Natter' with the Stork and the Bees nappy library to give Dacorum residents an opportunity to find out about reusable nappies. We also discussed the HERTS Reusable Nappy Scheme which offers Hertfordshire residents a 15 per cent discount on selected reusable nappy products and accessories. If you missed the event, you can find out more about the scheme at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ReusableNappies



Get an extra green bin

Our Additional Garden Waste Subscription Service is becoming increasingly popular as we approach the warmer months. The service enables you to buy as many additional green-lidded bins as you need for £25 each (if you do not already have a spare green-lidded bin) and pay a seasonal fee of £60 per bin to have these emptied alongside your regular green bin collection. For more information visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/extragreenbin

Clear pavements

Bins left on pavements can cause mobility difficulties for residents in wheelchairs and those with pushchairs. Please ensure that you put your bins out for collection by 6:45am on the day of collection and take them off your pavements as soon as possible.



Dacorum

Let's celebrate



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for the latest updates.



On Thursday 2 June 2022, we will celebrate another unique milestone in our history, Her Majesty The Queen's 70th year as our Monarch and Head of the Commonwealth - her Platinum Jubilee. It is a feat no previous monarch has achieved.

Event Schedule

Thursday 2 June 2022

11.30am - 12.30pm

The Queen's Green Canopy Planting

We will be planting a tree at Queen's Square in Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead to commemorate the Queen's Green Canopy Planting. The community and local dignitaries are invited to attend.

2pm - 2.20pm

Trooping the colour

As a community, we will be coming together to host a Trooping the Colour parade from the Old Town, in Hemel Hempstead into Gadebridge Park. Uniformed groups are invited to participate.

2.20pm - 10pm

Platinum Party in the Park

Head to our Jubilee live event in Gadebridge Park for a free family day and evening of entertainment. Starting at 2pm, there will be a stage with live music and performances from Gobstoppers drama group and comedians such as award winning Laura Lexx. There will be free children's activities including face painting and balloon modelling and a range of bars and food stalls. The party will end with the lighting of the Platinum Jubilee Beacon at 9.45pm and a firework finale.

Friday 3 June 2022

We have no events planned this day, but there may be other events hosted by local community groups.

Saturday 4 June 2022

2pm - 10pm

Live Broadcast from the BBC

The BBC will stage and broadcast a special live concert from Buckingham Palace, bringing together some of the world's biggest stars. We will be screening the events in Gadebridge Park for the community to watch.

Sunday 5 June 2022

The Big Jubilee Lunch

Whether it's sharing a cuppa with a neighbour on the doorstep or a bigger bash in the street, join millions of people across the UK to share friendship, food and fun with The Big Jubilee Lunch.

Find out more:

www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-jubilee-lunch

www.dacorum.gov.uk/platinum-jubilee



Planting trees for the Jubilee

As part of the Jubilee celebrations, there is a UK-wide tree-planting initiative inviting people to take part to increase the amount of trees across the country.

As part of the Queen's Green Canopy, a tree will be planted off Queen's Square, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead between 11.30am – 12.30pm on Thursday 2 June. The site has been chosen in recognition of the Queen's visit in 1952.

The community and local dignitaries are invited to attend.

Throughout January and February, we've planted more than 1,300 trees as part of our tree-planting strategy and between now and 2025 another 1,000 native whips will be planted in Gadebridge Park combined with 30 more standard trees, and 2,000 whips in Bunkers Park.

Find out more at www.queensgreencanopy.org



Royal beacons to light up Jubilee

On Thursday 2 June, over 1,500 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.

For the first time, beacons will also be lit in each of the capital cities of the Commonwealth countries to mark the historic Jubilee.

As part of our live Jubilee celebrations in Gadebridge Park, we will be lighting a beacon at 9.45pm with our towns and parishes organising individual beacon lighting events.

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACON TRAIL

A FREE, FAMILY OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

PROUDLY SUPPORTING H-1P for HEROES

SCAN TO SEE ME IN AR

JubileeBeaconTrail.com

Trustpilot



Focus on council finances

As household budgets are squeezed so too is the council's budget which is used to support the most vulnerable in our community and provide essential services to all residents.



Cllr Graeme Elliot
Portfolio Holder for Finance
and Resources

At the end of last year we were the only council in Hertfordshire to have published the 2021 financial statements in line with statutory government timelines. This was a great achievement and I want to thank the Council officers involved in this work which assures our stakeholders we are a well-managed organisation.

As the money we receive from central government continues to reduce, we in turn had to

raise Council Tax by 2.37 per cent this year. This works out at £5 increase a year for a Band D property as we only keep 11 per cent of the Council Tax you pay – with 78 per cent going to Hertfordshire County Council and 11 per cent to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

We have been processing the £150 Energy Bills Rebate. Most households in band A-D properties will have received the payment or information about how to claim it by the middle of May. Further details are available on our website. We have also been supporting businesses, paying around £1m of Omicron grants, and providing around £5m of business rates relief to local retail, hospitality and leisure businesses.

As we look to increase our commercial activities to support the local community it's good to report that income from our commercial properties has remained strong. Income levels have exceeded expectations by around 15 per cent, and occupancy remains above 95 per

cent. This is a good indicator of how the local small independent businesses have progressed over the course of the pandemic.

Our transformation programme continues to ensure we can deliver services fit for the future. We have welcomed staff back to the office as COVID-19 restrictions eased while continuing to offer flexible working where we can. Our Council meetings have returned to the Forum but residents are now able to watch meetings online due to new technology adopted during the pandemic.

You can find the link to the live YouTube streaming on our website, just go to www.dacorum.gov.uk/councilmeetings and then select the Council meeting from the calendar. The link will be available 15 minutes before the meeting starts. This is just one of the ways we are continuing to invest in technology to improve services and enable residents to get more involved with their local council.



Sign up to MyDacorum

MyDacorum is the secure, flexible and personalised way to access your council services. The residents' portal is a user-friendly site that lets you do anything from setting up bin collection reminders to checking or paying your Council Tax to Rent Statements and balances for Housing Tenants (and much more).

To sign up go to: www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/mydacorum



Have your say

Want to give us your views on a range of council issues?

Join our online consultation group and let us have your views via the internet. The email group is designed to be flexible and convenient to you. Once you join, you will be invited to take part in online consultations. You won't have to participate in every consultation – only the ones that you feel relevant to you or would like to give us your opinion about.

To join you must be aged 16 or over, live in Dacorum and be able to complete our surveys online.

Register at www.dacorum.gov.uk/consultation where you'll also find more information, or email communications@dacorum.gov.uk with any questions.

Dacorum Borough Council

Committee Meetings

Full Council

All 51 Council Members attend full Council meetings, held around seven or eight times a year. They debate and agree decisions on behalf of local residents.

Wednesday 20 July
Wednesday 14 September
Wednesday 23 November

Cabinet Meetings

The Council's Cabinet has six senior Councillors who make key decisions. The Cabinet's decisions can be 'called in' to be looked at in more detail by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, or may need to be approved by Full Council.

Tuesday 12 July
Tuesday 27 September
Tuesday 18 October

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

These meet regularly to discuss service performance and improvements and to check the decisions made by the Cabinet. They are made up of Council Members from across the political parties and encourage views from local people, community groups and our partner organisations.

Strategic Planning and Environment

Tuesday 14 June
Wednesday 6 July
Wednesday 21 September
Wednesday 12 October

Housing and Community

Wednesday 15 June
Wednesday 13 July
Wednesday 7 September
Wednesday 5 October

Finance and Resources

Tuesday 7 June
Tuesday 5 July
Tuesday 6 September
Tuesday 4 October

Health in Dacorum

Wednesday 8 June

Development Management Committee

This committee makes decisions on planning applications.

Thursday 26 May
Thursday 23 June
Thursday 14 July
Thursday 11 August
Thursday 1 September
Thursday 29 September
Thursday 20 October

Other committee meetings

Licensing (Health and Safety and Enforcement)

Tuesday 24 May
Tuesday 28 June
Tuesday 26 July

Dacorum Community Safety Partnership

See website below for future dates

Standards Committee

Thursday 30 June

Audit Committee

Wednesday 22 June
Wednesday 27 July
Thursday 29 September

Meeting times and agendas are correct at the time of printing but can change. Meeting agendas are published a week before the meeting date. You can find the most up to date details, agendas, minutes and meeting dates on our website at

www.dacorum.gov.uk/councilmeetings





How we are getting to net-zero

As a Council, we're responsible for less than one per cent of direct carbon emissions within the borough. We understand that our wider role in helping to address the climate and ecological emergency will be supporting others in reducing and offsetting the remaining 99 per cent of emissions.



Cllr Andrew Williams
Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Contracted Services and Community Leadership

We have published a climate and ecological emergency strategy to outline the steps that we're taking to reduce the council's and the wider borough's carbon emissions.

This document outlines several key objectives and how we will work to achieve these:

1. Reach net-zero emissions as an organisation by 2030
2. Reach net-zero emissions for our council housing stock, by 2050 at the latest
3. Support the borough in reducing its emissions and reaching net-zero as quickly as possible, by 2050 at the latest
4. Support the borough in improving biodiversity
5. Support the borough in creating more sustainable communities

The strategy provides an overview of our proposed actions under the key themes of transport, energy use, biodiversity and sustainable communities.

In autumn 2021, we set up the Dacorum Climate Action Network (Dacorum CAN) to help bring together local individuals and organisations to think global and act local. I'm pleased that

around 200 individuals and 40 organisations have already joined and many attended our first annual event in November, to coincide with COP26 – the global climate change conference. There were a diverse range of speakers and stall holders and attendees were able to make pledges on how they can cut their carbon emissions. Make a positive change and sign up here

www.dacorum.gov.uk/dacorumcan

As part of the Dacorum CAN work, we also support local environmental action through our Green Community Grants. This spring, we awarded £20,000 to nine groups. There was a brilliant range of projects including rewilding and monitoring of wildlife at various sites, tree planting at multiple locations, the creation and management of several ponds and a community 'make and mend' project incorporating clothes swaps.



HEAT – helping you save energy at home

Download the Hertfordshire Energy Advice Tool (HEAT) app on your smartphone to get some quick hints and tips on how to save money on your energy bills.

So far, 73 per cent of residents who downloaded the app found out they can save energy by washing their clothes at

30 degrees and 59 per cent could save £30 a year on their electricity bills by switching all their lights to LED bulbs.

You can download the app for free from the App Store or Google Play to see how much you could save. Visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/sustainability to find out more.



Wildflower seed giveaway

To celebrate Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2022, we're giving away free wildflower seeds.

In the UK, a staggering 97 per cent of wildflower meadows have disappeared since the 1930s.

These meadows are incredibly valuable wildlife habitats and can contain up to 40 different species per square metre.

Wildflowers also help to absorb and store carbon and so can play an important role in helping to mitigate climate change. For this reason, we want to encourage all of our residents to grow wildflowers at home to help tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

To apply for your free seeds, visit: www.dacorum.gov.uk/biodiversity by Sunday 29 May. Packs will be given on a first come, first served basis.

£10,000 worth of free home improvements

With energy prices rising, now is the perfect time to make energy improvements to your home to reduce the amount of energy you use and help save money on your bills.

We've secured Government funding through the 'Sustainable Warmth' scheme, which can help you get up to £10,000 worth of free improvements to your homes. To be eligible for the grant, homeowners must meet two main criteria:

1. Your home must have a low energy efficiency rating, with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of D, E, F or G.
2. Your total household income from employment must either be less than £30,000 per year, or you must receive certain benefits.

The grant can pay for a wide range of energy-efficiency measures, such as insulation, more efficient doors and windows, renewable heating systems such as solar panels or air source heat pumps.

We've partnered with Warmworks to manage the arrangements so that getting your improvements is as straightforward as possible.

To apply or discuss the grant further, call Warmworks for free on 0808 196 8255 or fill out the online form at surveys.est.org.uk/s/GreenHomesGrantSchemeLAD/ or scan the QR code.

For more energy saving advice visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/homeenergy





Providing good quality affordable homes,
in particular for those most in need



Providing quality new council homes for our borough



Cllr Margaret Griffiths
Portfolio Holder for Housing

Over the past few months we gained planning approval on several new developments and over the summer we will be on site building 173 new council homes. We are due to start on site or have just begun building at:

- Mountbatten View - 58 one and two-bedroom apartments at Paradise Fields off St. Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead. The apartments have generous private balconies and under floor heating which will be provided by communal air source heat pumps. There will

also be a central garden, secure cycle stores and electric vehicle charging.

- Eastwick Row - a new apartment block in Adeyfield which will provide 34 new homes with improvements to parking and landscaping.
- Randalls Ride - 30 new homes made up of 18 one-bedroom apartments and 12 two-bedroom apartments with Juliet balconies, parking and cycle storage in Highfield.

As part of our ongoing commitment to deliver much-needed affordable housing, we're also working on plans to redevelop the Paradise Depot site, off St Albans Road in Hemel Hempstead. The current site - which was the location of the food bank, depot and offices - run by local homeless charity DENS - will be redeveloped to accommodate 56 apartments, with a mix of one- and two-bedroom homes, and a new centre for DENS.

We have decided to fund the development of a new building for

DENS as part of this development so that we can continue working in partnership with them on the delivery of essential community services.

We have also partnered with the Hills Group to provide modular homes in Aragon Close, Hemel Hempstead. SoloHaus are specially designed, furnished and fully equipped for a single person to move straight into. We're delighted to be able to provide these energy efficient homes for people in the greatest housing need in Dacorum. The modular homes provide an independent, safe environment for residents to take the next step into more permanent accommodation.

I hope that all our new tenants will be proud to call these new developments home and maybe some will go on to receive the success of Magenta Court in Apsley, which was announced as the winner of the Best Small Social Housing Development Award at the National Housebuilding Excellence Awards in February.



New homes completed in Kings Langley

Our village development of 10 two and three bedroom houses, including a fully compliant wheelchair accessible house, all for social rent in Coniston Road will soon welcome its first tenants.

Built by our contractor, Bugler Developments Ltd, these energy-efficient homes are highly-insulated (above current building regulation requirements), have photovoltaic roof panels and

an external power supply for connection to electric vehicle wall chargers.

These homes will be let to applicants on our housing register.

Making our homes more energy efficient

We are carrying out work to fit energy-saving measures to our homes across the borough as part of our commitment to ensuring our housing stock is net zero by 2050 in line with UK targets.

We have been awarded £300,000 of Government funding to carry out energy efficiency upgrades to 24 council homes in Northend, Hemel Hempstead. The grant will be used to fit external wall insulation, double glazing and loft insulation to four blocks of flats this summer.



This will significantly increase the insulation performance on these homes and in turn help our tenants tackle rising fuel bills. The grant covers approximately 40 per cent of the project costs and we will be covering the remaining 60 per cent.



St Margaret's Way

We have received planning permission for 46 new homes in St Margaret's Way in Leverstock Green. The development will provide 13 three-bedroom houses and three two-bedroom houses as well as 16 one-bedroom and 14 two-bedroom apartments all for social rent. Two of the flats will be wheelchair adapted.

These new homes will be energy-efficient with air source heat pumps and solar roof panels. Apartments will have private balconies or patio space on the ground floor. The development will also provide parking and retain a central green space.

We are planning to start on site in 2023.



Become a Block Champion

If you live in a council-owned block of flats, maisonettes or sheltered scheme you can become a 'Block Champion'.

Block Champions are active voices in their community, helping us to improve neighbourhoods by telling us about any problems they notice around their block. The number of Block Champions is growing all the time, sending in useful reports of issues such as fly-tipping, graffiti and damage in communal areas.

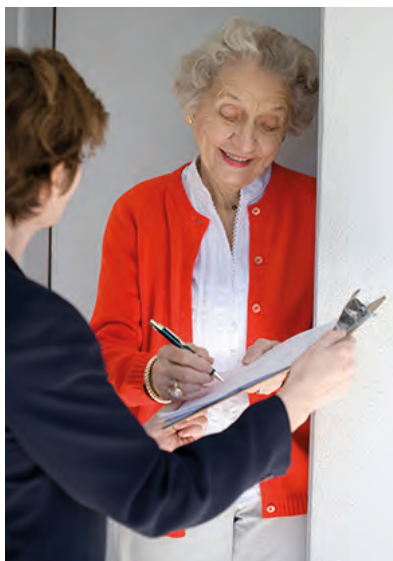
Find out more www.dacorum.gov.uk/get-involved

Tenancy Reviews

Our Tenancy Management Officers will now aim to visit every tenant at least once every three years. This allows us to make sure all the information we have about your household is up to date, assess the condition of your home and give you the chance to ask questions about your home, your tenancy or your neighbourhood. We will ask you for two forms of identification as proof you are the legal tenant(s).

Knowing who lives at your home can help us in case of emergency. It also helps us protect against things like tenancy fraud and to identify and help with any support needs or safeguarding issues.

Find out more www.dacorum.gov.uk/tenancy-review



Making best use of council homes

The Housing Allocations Policy sets out how we prioritise applications for council and housing association homes based on applicants' circumstances and level of housing need.

We review this policy regularly to make sure that we are acting fairly and keeping all our homes occupied, so that we receive the rental income that allows us to deliver all our housing services.

This summer, we're changing our local connection requirements for village homes, reducing the length of time that applicants must have lived or worked in our rural areas and changing the ages children can share bedrooms.

We're also planning some changes that will allow some homeowners to apply for supported housing to meet their needs. The new policy will be published on our website soon.

You can also view this policy and other information about moving home on the Moving with Dacorum website www.movingwithdacorum.org.uk



Listening to you – 2022 STAR survey

Every two years we run STAR - the Survey of Tenants and Residents – and use what you tell us to improve housing services.

For 2022, we've introduced a new format – a shorter survey, but with the option for you to tell us in your own words why you are satisfied or dissatisfied with different aspects of your housing service.

As a thank you for your time, you can enter our free prize draw for a chance of winning a £50 shopping voucher or £50 off your rent account.

Please go to www.dacorum.gov.uk/STAR to find out more and complete the survey by Sunday 31 July.



Peace of mind with Lifeline

Lifeline is an emergency community alarm service that allows you to have peace of mind and an added level of security in your own home. If you fall or have an emergency, you can contact the control centre quickly and easily by pressing the button on the main unit or pendant. Apply on our website, email lifeline@dacorum.gov.uk or call on 01442 228347 and we will send you an application pack.



If you currently use our Lifeline service:

We're supporting our Lifeline users to prepare for the UK changes to switch over the technology we use to make calls on landlines from 'analogue' to digital.

The changeover will happen by December 2025, when the old technology will stop working but phone providers have already started work on switching over the network.

When your phone provider contacts you to let you know the changeover is taking place, please let them know you have a personal Lifeline unit in your property that uses your landline. You should also ask them for a free of charge battery backup unit, which keeps your Lifeline personal alarm working if there is a short power cut.

The Supported Housing team will be in contact with all our Lifeline users to support you through the process. Please call the Supported Housing team with any questions or concerns on 01442 228347.



Online training portal launched for tenants

We've launched an online training portal to provide free training and wellbeing courses for tenants and housing applicants.

Dacorum Online Training (DOT) aims to improve the wellbeing of residents while helping tenants with advice and information on their tenancy.

Both existing tenants and housing applicants can get involved. Existing tenants can self-refer for a DOT course by visiting: www.dacorum.gov.uk/dot

New housing applicants can be referred for pre-tenancy training where they can complete six bite-size training courses and a feedback page. There are five extra housing points available if the course is completed (those on the transfer list are not eligible).

Anyone without internet access will be able to complete the training face-to-face.

Find out more www.dacorum.gov.uk/get-involved

Supporting our residents health and wellbeing

Dancing, digital skills and coffee mornings are just some of the health and wellbeing activities offered at our supported housing schemes across the borough.

Let's Dance Dacorum has been putting on dance sessions, there have been digital skills and arts and craft sessions with Community Action Dacorum and coffee mornings with Age UK Dacorum.

We'd like to hear from our tenants about other activities that you would like to see taking place. Please contact your supported Housing officer or the Supported Housing team on 01442 228347.



Save money on water bills while helping the environment

We're encouraging residents to take advantage of Affinity Water's Water Saving Service, which can save you money on your water bill and help the planet.

The water we all use at home comes from our local environment and unfortunately, too much water is wasted.

Two causes of this are hidden leaky pipes and inefficient fittings, which many residents don't realise are often wasting huge amounts of water, effectively flushing their hard-earned cash down the drain.

If you arrange a visit, Affinity Water's qualified technicians will come round to your house to identify and repair small leaks (where possible), offer to fit free water saving devices, and give you some advice about easy changes you could make to reduce your water bills.

A home visit should only take around 40 minutes and Affinity Water will cover 100 per cent of the cost of your visit (normally worth £80), and there are no hidden charges.

Sign up by calling 0808 175 0440 (8:30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) or email affinity.water@groundwork.org.uk



ARMED FORCES DAY SHOW YOUR SUPPORT



Date: 25 June 2022

Location: Gadebridge Park

Confirmed acts:

RLC Silver Stars Army

Parachute Display Team

Misselchalke Gundogs

The Falconry Show

The Polka Dots (1940's Duo)

Flying Act Stilt Walkers

Mini Tank Act



www.dacorum.gov.uk



HEMEL HEMPSTEAD GET READY TO RUN THIS TOWN!

A 5K RUN TO SUPPORT WHAT MATTERS LOCALLY!



active
DACORUM

SUNDAY 17 JULY | 9 AM
SIGN UP TODAY!

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/
mayors-office-dacorum-borough-council](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mayors-office-dacorum-borough-council)



MAYLANDS PLAZA

Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead

GET ON THE PROPERTY LADDER WITH
SHARED OWNERSHIP

PHASE ONE COMING SUMMER 2022

Brand new 1, 2 & 3 bedroom homes in
Hemel Hempstead available for Shared Ownership

This collection of stylish new apartments and houses is
perfectly situated for commuters and within easy access to the
many amenities of Hemel Hempstead.



Register your interest
maylandsplaza.co.uk

Details correct at time of print. Interior images from a previous Hightown Homes development .


**Hightown
Homes**