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Welcome

We have been continuing to support our community through difficult times while delivering essential frontline services.

This edition of Digest highlights the many projects and ambitious plans we as a council are involved in for our residents, businesses and communities.

We have launched our consultation on the Emerging Strategy for Growth - the next step to creating the new Dacorum Local Plan 2020 - 2038. The consultation will be a key document in shaping the future of our borough. Find out how you can be involved on page 4.

We are also proud to celebrate the completion of our 300th new council home - see pages 8 and 9.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Chief Executive Claire Hamilton (meet Claire on page 5).

Claire brings a wealth of knowledge in housing, regeneration and economic development to Dacorum. This experience gained from senior roles in a number of local authorities will be a real benefit to Dacorum, and help shape our response to the COVID-19 recovery phase, and implementation of the Corporate Plan 2020-2025.

Wishing all our residents a safe and well Christmas and New Year.

Cllr Andrew Williams, Leader of the Council

Join our online consultation group today

We value your views and opinions and believe it is important to gather feedback from residents about services run by us now and in the future. This feedback helps us to shape our services and plan ahead so we can deliver the services you want us to.

To this end, we're inviting you to join our online consultation group. It's a cost-effective way to find out what local residents think about local public services, their neighbourhood and local issues.

To join you must be aged 16 or over, live in Dacorum and be able to complete our surveys online. We're looking for residents from across the borough who represent all backgrounds.

The group is made up of people who are willing, from time to time, to give their views on a variety of topics. There are over 800 residents already taking part but we need more people like you.

Your only commitment is to agree to receive occasional consultations via email. You won't have to participate in every consultation, only the ones that you feel are relevant to you or would like to give us your opinion about.

Your email and personal data are held securely and will not be shared with any outside organisation. We will only use information you provide for the stated purpose of consultation.

To join, go to www.dacorum.gov.uk/onlineconsultation If you have any queries about the group, please email communications@dacorum.gov.uk



Voting safely at next year's elections

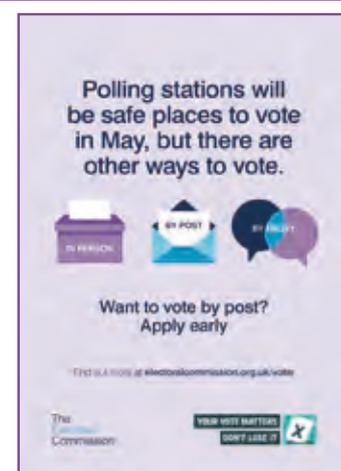
On Thursday 6 May 2021, you can have your say on who represents you at Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

While the elections are not until May, we're already making plans to help you stay safe while casting your vote. You can expect many of the measures you've become used to in shops and banks over recent months, such as hand sanitiser, floor markings and face masks.

There are a number of ways to have your say in the election - you can vote in a polling station, by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote.

If you're thinking about voting by post, you can apply now. This will make sure your application is processed early, and your postal vote can be sent to you more quickly. It's easy to apply and you can find out how by visiting the Electoral Commission website www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter

You need to be registered to vote in order to have a say at the elections - the easiest way to register is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote



Christmas opening times

Our Customer Service phone lines will be closed on Friday 25 December, Monday 28 December and Friday 1 January 2021. During these times you can still use all our online services, please visit www.dacorum.gov.uk

You can contact the emergency council housing repairs service on 0800 018 6050 and make payments using our 24-hour automated service on **0345 370 6070**.

Cemeteries

Woodwells and Heath Lane in Hemel Hempstead, Kingshill in Berkhamsted and Tring Cemetery are open throughout Christmas and the New Year. Winter opening hours: Monday to Saturday 8am to 4.30pm, Sundays and Bank Holidays 9am to 4.30pm.

The cemetery offices at Woodwells will be closed on the bank holidays, Friday 25 and Monday 28 December and Friday 1 January 2021.



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Publisher

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Council services during the pandemic

As we move through winter we expect different restrictions will be placed on us and there will be pressures on our services. We are prepared for this and will prioritise the services we know mean the most to you. The services we are able to provide to you may change depending on the restrictions placed on us at any time.

The Forum will remain open on a 'by appointment' basis. This will enable us to continue to provide essential services to you, if needed.

Our online services remain available and we urge you to use this facility. If your enquiry cannot be answered via our website, please email customer.services@dacorum.gov.uk or call **01442 228000**. Please only contact us for essential/urgent enquiries.

Bins and recycling

We will make every effort to keep kerbside collections running as usual. Help stop the spread and protect our workers by washing your hands before putting your waste and recycling out, and disinfecting your bin handles before and after collections.

With more people working from home, our crews have been experiencing an increase in the number of roads blocked by parked cars. Please do not block access when you park as this may result in your bins not being collected.

Outdoor spaces

Parks and playgrounds will remain open (if restrictions allow) for you to use for leisure and exercise.

Cemeteries will remain open for funerals and visitors. Please ensure social distancing when visiting outdoor spaces.

Council housing

We continue to carry out essential works where required. This includes annual gas servicing for our housing tenants. In addition, we will continue to respond to emergency repairs - a full list of what qualifies as an emergency repair can be found in the Tenants' Handbook.

Our contractors are following the Government's COVID-19 guidelines and taking the necessary precautions to keep themselves and residents safe when carrying out works.

Help and advice

There is support available if you are unable to leave your home, struggling financially or need help with your wellbeing.

If you're affected by coronavirus, visit www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-support to find out what help and

advice you or someone else can get from the Government and other organisations.

Hertfordshire County Council

You can find out the latest information on services run by the County Council, including education/schools, buses, libraries, recycling centres (tips) and adult social care on its website.

We can help with the following:

Self-isolation payments

If you have been requested to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or you have tested positive, you may be eligible for £500 through the Test and Trace Support Scheme.

Council Tax Support and rent advice

If you are having difficulty making Council Tax or rent payments as you are no longer able to work you may be able to claim Council Tax Support or apply for benefits to help you pay your rent.

Homelessness

If you become homeless, you should contact homelessnessprevention@dacorum.gov.uk or call **01442 228000**. If this is out of hours, please call **0800 018 60 50** for our 24-hour service.

Additional help is available locally with:

Food, shopping and prescriptions

If you are in need of support with food and other essentials or need assistance with deliveries, shopping or medicines, please contact HertsHelp. You can email info@hertshelp.net or call the team on **0300 123 4044** 8am - 8pm, Monday - Friday and 10am - 6pm, Saturday and Sunday.

Health help over the winter

Winter is a busy time for the NHS - and more so than ever this year. With lots of services available, going to the right place for help is best for you and the NHS.

During coronavirus the NHS is still here to support all health needs. GPs, clinics and hospitals are doing more phone and video appointments - but they're still seeing patients if needed and have social distancing and infection control measures in place to keep everyone safe.

Keep yourself and your family healthy by following these tips:

1. Be prepared. Keep a small supply of the medicines you use most often. You can buy what you need from your local pharmacist or supermarket, often at little cost. Order repeat prescriptions in good time - especially ahead of Christmas and New Year.
2. Use your local pharmacy for advice on medicines or for common ailments that don't need help from a nurse or doctor. Call your pharmacy or contact them online before going in person. You can get medicines delivered or ask someone to collect them.
3. Use the NHS 111 service for 24-hour urgent health support from trained advisers. They can give you advice or arrange help from the right person. Get help online at www.111.nhs.uk
4. Call 111 before travelling to an urgent treatment centre or emergency department. They will direct you to the best place for your symptoms and can even book some types of appointment (if you need one) - saving you a long wait.
5. Getting a flu jab is a vital part of staying well this winter. If you're invited for a flu vaccine by your GP or pharmacist, make sure you go.
6. Look after your mental health too. If you're feeling distressed or have wellbeing concerns and need to talk to someone, contact your GP or call **0800 6444 101** to access mental health support and services. You can also call 111 and choose option 2.



Help shape our Local Plan

We have launched our consultation on the Emerging Strategy for Growth – the next step to creating the new Dacorum Local Plan 2020 – 2038.

The consultation, which closes at 11:59pm on Sunday 7 February 2021, will be a key document in shaping the future of our borough and will affect us all. We are keen to encourage as many people and organisations as possible to get involved.

A key role of the Local Plan is to establish the amount and location of new development in Dacorum over the next 18 years and to set out our approach to:

- Identifying where and when development should take place
- Delivering a step change in housing growth
- Supporting the local economy, employment and retail
- Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate
- Promoting high-quality design of development
- Conserving and enhancing the historic and natural environment, and
- Enabling the delivery of infrastructure.

All information and documents relating to the consultation are available:

- via our Consultation Portal consult.dacorum.gov.uk/kse
- on our website www.dacorum.gov.uk/localplan

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions we will be carrying out more online engagement, including hosting a virtual exhibition throughout the duration of the consultation dacorumlocalplan.consultation.ai As a part of this you will be able to ask questions to planning officers via the 'leave a message' function.



A hard copy of the document is available for loan in Hemel, Berkhamsted and Tring libraries and can be viewed at the Forum by appointment. To make an appointment email: strategic.planning@dacorum.gov.uk or call **01442 228660**. After reviewing the feedback received, and considering this in the context of technical work and Government guidance, the Pre-Submission version of the Local Plan will be prepared for further consultation later in 2021.

Once finalised, the new Dacorum Local Plan 2020-2038 will become the blueprint for the key planning decisions within Dacorum. The new Local Plan is scheduled to come into force in the autumn of 2022.

The Emerging Strategy for Growth consultation, supporting information and the link to our virtual exhibition can be found at www.dacorum.gov.uk/localplan

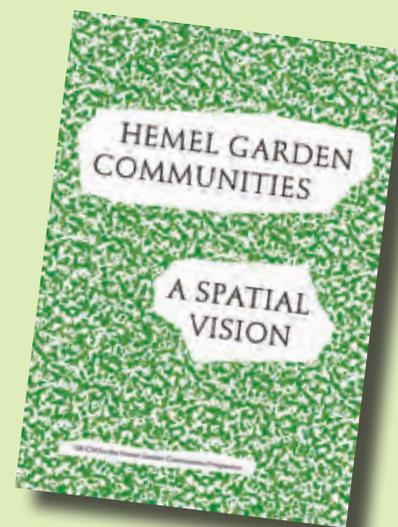


Hemel Garden Communities vision coming soon

Hemel Hemel Garden Communities is an ambitious programme to transform and grow the town of Hemel Hempstead to be a greener, brighter more connected New Town. We have been working with stakeholders and the public to develop a Spatial Vision, a document that will explain how the town and wider area will look and feel once the development and transformation is complete.

We will be launching the Spatial Vision in early 2021 and providing opportunities for you to have your say in shaping the plans that will set out the next steps for Hemel Garden Communities.

Follow our Instagram account, the Hemel Channel, and keep an eye on the Hemel Garden Communities webpage: www.dacorum.gov.uk/hemelgardencommunities to view the Spatial Vision once published and learn more about shaping the future of Hemel. Or, contact us directly at hemelgardencommunities@dacorum.gov.uk for more information.



Dacorum Borough Council welcomes new Chief Executive



Claire Hamilton, Dacorum Borough Council's new Chief Executive, took over the role in October. Claire brings over 25 years' experience of working in the public sector and has worked on a number of high-profile regeneration projects over the years. Her previous role was as Director of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town, a regeneration project delivering high-quality homes, employment opportunities and sustainable travel infrastructure – reflecting the Hemel Garden Communities project planned for Dacorum.

Here Claire answers key questions regarding her plans as Chief Executive of Dacorum Borough Council.

Q. The world has been living through unprecedented times during the COVID-19 pandemic – what is your message to Dacorum residents as we head into the future?

We need to ensure that Dacorum communities and businesses are well supported through these difficult times and I will be working with your councillors, our staff and partner organisations to achieve this. Your engagement with the Council is absolutely essential and I will make sure that we listen to your views and feedback on the impact of COVID-19 and what we can do to continue to build a resilient and thriving borough.

Q. Looking to the future, the Hemel Garden Communities project is one of the biggest priorities for Dacorum over the next 30 years. What are the key benefits to Dacorum residents?

Hemel Garden Communities will create new attractive neighbourhoods for existing residents, their children and those who choose to make Dacorum their new home. New housing will be well designed and of a high quality and many new homes will be affordable for local people. New jobs will also be created locally, particularly in the agricultural and green technology and construction sectors, and new local centres with a good range of services and new schools will also be provided. These proposals will see significant investment into Dacorum and will ensure that housing and employment opportunities in Dacorum are well planned and managed for years to come.

Q. What are the other main priorities/challenges for Dacorum as you take over the role as Chief Executive in the current climate?

It's an interesting time to start a new job and most of my meetings are virtual at the moment due to the COVID emergency. My priority is to get to know the Dacorum councillors and staff and to make sure that those services that are under pressure at the moment are properly supported. I will then be in a position to review the way the Council operates so that we can ensure it continues to be a resilient council that can best face future challenges. We need to ensure that we quickly recover from the impact we have seen on the community and the economy and we're working on that already. This will then put us in a strong position to bring about the future transformation and regeneration of the borough.

Q. Dacorum has a thriving business community – how has the Council been supporting the business sector and how will it continue to do so going forward.

We have continued to offer all of our Economic Development services virtually throughout the pandemic and we were able to re-open our two business centres in July. We carried out a telephone survey with over 700 of our local businesses to understand the impacts of COVID-19 on them and we have revisited some of this data more recently. We have verified and paid out Small Business and Discretionary Grants to support eligible businesses which has given a much-needed lifeline to many businesses. Unfortunately this has not been able to help all businesses, so we will shape our services going forward to identify areas where we can offer further support or advice. The Council is also preparing an Economic Recovery Strategy which we will begin to deliver in the new year.

Q. What are the Council's policies to tackle climate change?

We are determined to play our part in tackling the Climate Emergency. We have committed to ensuring that the operations, activities, and impact of the Council's built assets will be net carbon neutral by 2030. This will be achieved through a combination of specific new projects, use of our policy making and regulatory powers and incorporating climate change and sustainability as part of business as usual. In doing so, we will adhere to the highest standards of quality in our efforts to provide services that add value to our residents, partners, and employees – and to protect the earth's vital resources for the future. We will also be working closely with the community, voluntary organisations, and businesses to play our part in achieving a zero carbon borough by 2050. We started this with a 'Green Grant' scheme to help fund local community initiatives – this will be in place in the new year.

Q. The Local Plan (Emerging Strategy for Growth) consultation is now open. Why is it so important for Dacorum?

This consultation is the next step in preparing a new Local Plan for Dacorum that looks ahead to 2038. We are required to plan for levels of new growth across the borough, not seen since the early days of the new town.

With growth comes significant opportunities to deliver new infrastructure and to continue the

transformation of Hemel Hempstead, but it will also pose a number of challenges that the Local Plan will need to resolve.

The current consultation is your opportunity to have your say on the emerging plan, including the sites being suggested for development. In addition, you have the opportunity to input into those new policies that will guide development – everything from how we ensure new development delivers the type of housing we need, through to ensuring it meets our requirements for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

This is an important time to get involved and tell us what you think. Once this consultation closes our next step is to finalise the Plan ready to be published and then submitted for examination in 2021.

Q. What do you feel is the Council's biggest strength?

I have been very impressed with the professionalism and capability of the Council's officers that I have met so far and everyone is so dedicated to the delivery of excellent services to local people. With this outlook, I think we are very well placed to deal with the challenges and opportunities ahead. I am aware that one of our strengths is the tremendous range of town and parish council and community groups we can work with. I am also looking forward to meeting our residents and business representatives when restrictions are lifted to hear more about local priorities and initiatives.



Help for homelessness

We are committed to providing support and assistance to people rough sleeping and facing homelessness.

The borough has two dedicated Street Outreach workers who provide support to rough sleepers in the area.

We also work in partnership with DENS - a charity that manages The Elms hostel, which provides accommodation for 44 homeless people. The Elms also runs a severe weather emergency facility during October to March, to ensure rough sleepers do not need to sleep out during the winter. An evening meal and breakfast is provided for all those who attend.

If you spot someone sleeping rough or know of someone who is, please contact the outreach team on DB.Outreach@hightownha.org.uk or complete a referral via Streetlink.

During April - June 2020, 211 households were provided with temporary accommodation - compared with 78 households during the cold weather period of December - March 2020.

If you or someone you care about is homeless or at risk of homelessness and needs advice and support, please visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/homeless



Supporting your housing needs

If you are 60 or over and are thinking about your current housing situation, have you ever considered supported housing?

We have a range of properties across the borough - from individual flats and bungalows to designated schemes with a number of different communal facilities.

No matter where you choose to live, you will have the opportunity to receive support from one of our dedicated officers.

The service has been rated as outstanding for a number of years and we continually strive to help people retain their independence by offering choice and support.

If you are interested and eligible (in line with our Housing Allocations Policy) then find out more on our website:

www.dacorum.gov.uk/supported-housing-options or call **01442 228000** and ask for Housing Needs.



adventure Playgrounds



Time for a new adventure

Our Adeyfield and Grovehill Adventure Playgrounds have had a refurbishment with new multi-play equipment and sporting areas ready for 2021.

The multi-play structures include climbing walls, a sand pit, water play and double tubular slides.

Brand new floodlit 3G artificial turf pitches and multi play basketball areas will be available for hire in 2021.

The new facilities have been implemented with play and fitness in mind, to help challenge users physically and psychologically and to keep everyone in the community active. They also provide unique and exciting play settings for birthday and group hire needs.

To find out more about hiring the playground or if you are a sports group wanting to hire the 3G artificial turf pitches visit:

www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/adventureplaygrounds
or contact Adeyfield Adventure Playground: **01442 242852**
or Grovehill Adventure Playground: **01442 215872**

Berkhamsted car park open for business



Our multi-storey car park in Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted is providing new parking facilities for visitors, local business and rail commuters.

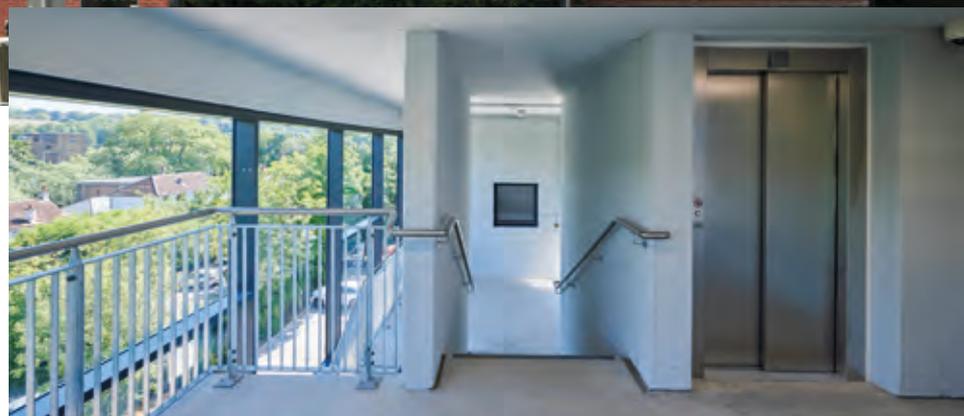
It is strategically located between Berkhamsted High Street and the train station and offers 297 well-laid-out parking bays and offers flexibility on how long visitors can park.

One of the most interesting features of the multi-storey car park is the installation of a 'living wall'. Part of the façade is covered with plants and foliage, creating a stunning visual welcome for users. The living wall helps to improve the quality of air and creates a habitat that encourages biodiversity. Additional benefits include noise reduction and it helps to improve a sense of well-being.

In addition, Bournside is a surface car park adjacent to the multi-storey car park. It has been landscaped to offer an additional 14 disabled bays and 5 motorcycle bays offering free parking up to 4 hours. There are also 20 bicycle racks.

Both car parks have been awarded Park Mark status. The Safer Parking Scheme is a national standard for UK car parks that have low crime and measures in place to ensure the safety of people and vehicles. The distinctive Park Mark signage helps drivers find car parks where they can confidently leave their vehicle, knowing the parking facilities have met the requirements of a risk assessment conducted by the police.

For more information about our parking provision in Dacorum visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/parking



Flytippers fined

Flytippers who leave rubbish at recycling points face a fine of £400 or prosecution.

With the introduction of the Coronavirus restrictions, there was a steep rise in flytipping with people leaving items that are non-recyclable such as fridges, carpets and electrical items.

Our Environmental Enforcement Team regularly patrol the sites and will take action against offenders where evidence is found. So far this year eight fines have been issued to people flytipping at the recycling points.

You can request a bulky waste collection on our website or take bulky household items and garden waste to the Recycling Centres free of charge.

Check the Hertfordshire County Council website for up to date information: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/recycling



New life breathed into historic pub

Our conservation team has worked with pub owners to preserve a 17th century village pub.

The Green Dragon in Flaunden features in Britain's Best Real Heritage Pubs, a CAMRA publication that highlights pub interiors of outstanding historic interest.

Working with our conservation officers, the owner has carried out a programme of restoration to the timber-framed structure, rare Victorian tap room and the dragon 'totem'.



new council homes

In 2013, we set ourselves the ambitious target to build 300 new homes by 2020. This was the first time we had built new council homes in a generation. Since then we have invested £50m in our 'Building for the Future' programme.

In October 2020, we reached our target and completed our 300th home on the site of the former Martindale School.

Here's a look back at all the new homes we have built over the last seven years:

2015

Farm Place - Our first build. 26 homes including a mix of flats and three-bedroom houses in Berkhamsted.

St Peter's Court - An innovatively designed, environmentally efficient block of nine two-bed flats in Gadebridge. This was the first property in Hertfordshire to be built using Passivhaus technology to ensure low energy costs for residents.

Hertfordshire Awards Association Winner 2015

The Elms - Our 41-bed homeless hostel in Hemel Hempstead provides accommodation and services to single homeless people with a local connection to the borough.

2016

Aspen Court - 36 flats on London Road in Apsley.

Queen Street - The high build quality and red brick design of the four flats and three-bedroom house in Tring, enable the properties to fit in well with the local conservation area.

2017

Able House - 14 flats in Hemel Hempstead's Old Town.

2019

Kylina Court - 79 one and two-bedroom flats for social rent off Maylands Avenue. The ground floor provides additional business offices to the Maylands Business Centre.

Winner of Inside Housing Development Awards 2019 Best affordable housing development

Corn Mill Court - Nine new flats and three houses on this site in Berkhamsted including renovating a locally listed building which was converted into three houses while retaining period features such as Tudor brick walls and fireplaces.

Berkhamsted Citizens Association Annual Environment Award 2019

2020

Howe Grove House and Williams House - 12 temporary accommodation spaces in Highfield and Leverstock Green.

Magenta Court - 29 flats in Apsley on the site of the former Dickinson's Paper Mill have been designed to fit in with the surrounding historic buildings along this stretch of the Grand Union Canal.

School End Crescent and Old School House - 65 new homes that are a mix of flats and houses for social rent and market sale on the site of the former Martindale School.

What's next?

Following the success of our Building for the Future programme we will be continuing to build new homes in Dacorum and are now looking to deliver 350 new homes in the next 5 years.

We are about to start developments in Adeyfield and Kings Langley and we currently have a planning application submitted for 58 flats on St Albans Road in Hemel Hempstead.

To find out more about our new homes, visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/newbuild



Corn Mill Court



Kylna Court



Farm Place



The Elms



Magenta Court



St Peter's Court



Aspen Court



Williams House



Queen Street

“ We are proud to be building new homes that will provide a legacy of housing for the next generation within our borough. ”
Leader of the Council, Cllr Andrew Williams



School End Crescent and Old School House

Our 'Learning from Lockdown' survey results

Thank you to the 1,500 residents who took part in our six-week sustainability survey to find out how behaviours changed in Dacorum during the safety measures brought about by COVID-19. The results will help shape parts of our Climate Emergency strategy released in 2021.

Transport and commuting

In the UK, commuting is responsible for around a fifth of all miles travelled. Results show that lockdown has played an important part in sparking a change in not only working from home and reducing carbon emissions from transport, but also in helping to improve work/life balance through more flexible working.

"Nine out of 10 people told us that they want to see fewer cars on roads in the future."

Food

Our diet makes up a significant part of our individual carbon footprints. However, growing food locally can significantly reduce the carbon emissions from our food and the packaging too.

"50 per cent of participants said they'd be willing to volunteer to run community gardens and orchards with 90 per cent saying that they would also buy food from them."

A third of all the food produced in the world goes to waste. This huge environmental and social issue is responsible for 11 per cent of all global greenhouse gas emissions. We asked residents how they could reduce food waste.

"50 per cent of you would be happy to use food sharing apps and would be interested in having local community fridges."

“Around 75 per cent of residents say they will now be working from home for several days of the week.”

“Two thirds of people told us that they plan to grow food after lockdown; an increase of around 1 in 5 people compared to before lockdown.”

“Two out of three people would attend a community repair event to help get their broken items fixed so that they can be used for longer.”

Green Community Grant

Grants of up to £2,000 are now available for environmental projects within Dacorum.

The 'Green Community Grant' is designed to help people 'think global and act local'.

Projects must have a positive environmental and community impact.

Applications are now open, the closing date is 31 January 2021.

To find out more details and how to apply, visit:

www.dacorum.gov.uk/grants



Community Fridges enable communities and businesses to share good food that would otherwise go to waste - unwanted food is dropped off and other residents can take it for free.

'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'

These are key behaviours that help to reduce carbon emissions by reducing the energy and resources that go into making products and packaging.

"Three out of four people told us that they would be interested in using a community 'library of things' to reduce the need for buying new items such as DIY tools."

Visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/sustainability to see the full survey results.

To be added to our mailing list to find out more about future sustainability initiatives, email: sustainability@dacorum.gov.uk

Wrap up your home this winter

We are encouraging residents to apply for two different streams of funding to help reduce the carbon footprint of their homes - and save up to £600 year.

Green Homes Grant scheme - aimed at home-owners, including landlords, the scheme provides the chance to get a voucher worth up to £5,000 to pay up to two thirds of the cost of energy-saving measures in their homes.

If a member of the household also receives certain benefits, the Government may cover 100 per cent of the cost of the improvements up to £10,000.

Vouchers must be used to install at least one primary home insulation or low carbon heating measure. You can also use your voucher to help cover the cost of secondary measures.

Work must be scheduled to be completed and the voucher redeemed by 31 March 2022.

Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Funding - the Government scheme is focused on helping householders who have high energy bills in relation to their income. Energy suppliers fund the installation of energy efficiency measures in households. We are working in partnership with YES Energy Solutions to make it easier for households to get the help they need. All installations would take place through an accredited network of installers.

Visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/homeenergy for more information on both grants.



Your bin collections for 2020/2021

If you need to check when your bins are collected:

1. Go to our website www.dacorum.gov.uk/mybins and enter your postcode. From here you can check your upcoming collections, download your own personalised calendar as a PDF to keep on your digital device or print off a copy.
2. Sign up to MyDacorum which will send you a text or email for each of your collection days.
Sign up here: www.resident.dacorum.gov.uk

Your normal collection day has not changed.

If you don't have online access please email: R4D@dacorum.gov.uk or call Waste Services on: **01442 228018** or **01442 228020** and your personalised calendar can be sent out in the post.

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Apr-21						
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			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

May-21						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Jun-21						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Jul-21						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Aug-21						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sep-21						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Oct-21						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Nov-21						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Dec-21						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Key

- Recycling and food waste
- Refuse and food waste
- Garden waste collections - refer to website for specific collections
- Bank holiday

Green lidded bin

for garden waste:

- ✓ Grass/hedge cuttings
- ✓ Leaves
- ✓ Twigs/small branches
- ✓ Flowers and weeds
- ✓ Small animal bedding (not shredded paper)
- ✗ No food, plastic, card, wood, soil or turf



Grey bin

for non-recyclable waste:

- ✗ No food
- ✗ No recyclables
- ✗ No textiles
- ✗ No electricals
- ✗ No soil
- ✗ No construction/demolition waste
- ✗ No hazardous waste



Blue lidded bin

for all clean and dry recyclable materials:

- ✓ Cardboard
- ✓ Aluminium foil
- ✓ Aerosol sprays
- ✓ Food tins and drink cans
- ✓ Paper, newspapers, magazines
- ✓ Food and drink cartons
- ✓ Plastic bottles, tubs, pots and trays
- ✓ Glass bottles and jars
- ✗ No food, soft plastic, textiles or electricals



Food caddies

for all food waste:

- ✓ Cooked or raw food
- ✓ Plate scrapings
- ✓ Fruit and veg peels
- ✓ Bones, skin and eggshells
- ✓ Teabags and coffee grounds
- ✗ No packaging



Line your kitchen caddy with any plastic bag, biodegradable bag or newspaper.

Christmas and New Year collection changes

Normal collection day	Your bin will be collected on...	Difference	Bin
2020			
Monday 21 December	Saturday 19 December	2 days early	Grey - lidded
Tuesday 22 December	Monday 21 December	1 day early	Grey - lidded
Wednesday 23 December	Tuesday 22 December	1 day early	Grey - lidded
Thursday 24 December	Wednesday 23 December	1 day early	Grey - lidded
Friday 25 December (Christmas Day)	Thursday 24 December	1 day early	Grey - lidded
Monday 28 December (Boxing Day - Substitute)	Tuesday 29 December	1 day late	Blue - lidded
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 30 December	1 day late	Blue-lidded
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 31 December	1 day late	Blue-lidded
Thursday 31 December	Saturday 2 January	2 days late	Blue-lidded
2021			
Friday 1 January (New Year's Day)	Monday 4 January	3 days late	Blue-lidded
Monday 4 January	Tuesday 5 January	1 day late	Grey - lidded
Tuesday 5 January	Wednesday 6 January	1 day late	Grey - lidded
Wednesday 6 January	Thursday 7 January	1 day late	Grey - lidded
Thursday 7 January	Friday 8 January	1 day late	Grey - lidded
Friday 8 January	Saturday 9 January	1 day late	Grey - lidded
Friday 2 April (Good Friday)	Friday 2 April	No change	Grey - lidded
Monday 5 April (Easter Monday)	All collections this week 1 day later		Blue-lidded
Monday 3 May (Early May Bank Holiday)	All collections this week 1 day later		Blue-lidded
Monday 31 May (Spring Bank Holiday)	All collections this week 1 day later		Blue-lidded
Monday 30 August (Summer Bank Holiday)	All collections this week 1 day later		Grey - lidded

Collection guidelines

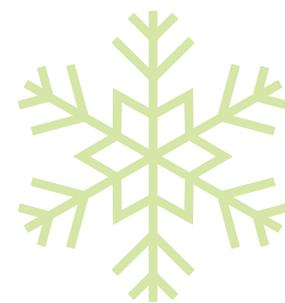
Please make sure:

- Your bins should be at the boundary of your property by 6:45am on your collection day.
- Excess refuse and garden waste **will not** be accepted.
- Excess recycling **will be** collected from a sturdy container left by your blue-lidded bin on collection day. No bags will be collected.
- Your kerbside food caddy will be collected weekly.

To report a missed bin or request repairs or replacements, visit: www.dacorum.gov.uk/recycling or call **01442 228000** and ask for Waste Services.



We wish you a Clean, Safe and Green Christmas and New Year!



Let's make sure we love the planet, as well as our friends and families this Christmas by following the three Rs; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

REDUCE

It's estimated that the UK will waste 54 million platefuls of food in December and seven in 10 people admit to buying too much food at Christmas.

You can reduce food waste by planning meals and portions and buying what you need. Check dates and freeze anything you don't use.

Visit: www.dacorum.gov.uk/foodwaste for more information.

You can also reduce your carbon footprint on present buying. Before buying any more presents, think about whether the recipient will really need what you're giving them or give the gift of time such as a trip to the zoo or try out a new activity or class.

REUSE

Second hand doesn't mean second best. In the charity shops around Dacorum, you can find gifts at a fraction of the price of buying new, all while supporting charities in our community.

Or buy reusables as gifts such as coffee cups and flasks, water bottles and lunch boxes. Now plastic straws are officially banned, how about gifting metal or bamboo straws? Did you know that more than 1.2 billion metres of plastic clingfilm is used in the UK every year - that's enough to wrap around the world 30 times over. Wax wraps are the perfect alternative to cling film and as they come in a vast array of sizes and designs, they make colourful presents.

RECYCLE

227,000 miles of wrapping paper is used each Christmas in the UK. Please choose recyclable wrapping paper - no foil, glitter or metallic parts as these can't be recycled.

You can also swap plastic tape for brown paper tape or rice paper tape and to be even more eco-friendly, you could try reusable wrapping such as cloth, gift bags or reusable gift boxes.

If sending Christmas cards, look for plastic-free Christmas cards that are made from recycled card. You can also find cards that donate to charity. Avoid glitter and metallic parts as these can't be recycled.

Once you've unwrapped your presents, check if the wrapping is recyclable by scrunching it in a ball in your hands. If it springs back open, it can't be recycled and needs to go in your grey bin.

Don't forget to recycle other packaging such as cardboard, envelopes, plastic tubs and trays, aluminium and glass (see page 12 for what goes in what bin).



Winter Garden Waste

The garden waste collection service is suspended over winter. It will begin again in weeks 1 or 8 March 2021. You can check the date of your collections using www.dacorum.gov.uk/mybins

Did you keep over-filling your garden waste bin this year? Perhaps you are planning a big garden project for next year? You may be interested in having an extra garden waste bin collected throughout 2021. From December you will be able to subscribe to the 2021 Additional Garden Waste Subscription Service. The subscription is just £55 per bin for the season and you can purchase extra bins for a one-off cost of £25 each. For more information about the service and to purchase your extra bin and subscribe visit: www.dacorum.gov.uk/extragreenbin

For our current subscribers, please note that your subscription ends on your last garden waste collection day of 2020 and you will need to purchase a 2021 subscription if you would like to continue having your additional bin/s collected.

Waste Text Alert Service

Weather extremes, such as snow, ice or flooding, can cause disruption to your waste collections. By signing up to our text alert service, you can get up-to-date information about your bin collections sent straight to your mobile phone if there are any changes that may affect you. We will also send you reminders when there are bank holidays, so that you will always know when to put your bins out.

To sign up to the alerts, text 'DBC waste, your house number, your postcode' to 60777 (for example 'DBC waste 80 HP4 2DR')

Your initial text will be charged at your standard network rate (it may be charged outside your inclusive text package). You will not be charged to receive the alerts.

For more information on refuse and recycling visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/recycling



If you live in Dacorum, the Council is part of your every day life, so it's important you have a say in the decisions that affect you. This section in Dacorum Digest is to let you know about opportunities coming up for you to get involved in local decision making.

Have your say

Online consultation group

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.



Have your say on our draft taxi and private hire licensing policy

Our taxi and private hire licensing policy sets out our approach to regulating taxi and private hire services in Dacorum.

Our primary concern is public safety and, through this draft policy, we aim to reduce potential risks associated with taxi and private hire services and provide transparency and consistency in our approach. The draft policy will be of interest to anyone who uses these services, no matter how regularly or frequently.

Our existing guidance documents were published at varying times from 2013 onwards and following a recent review we are now proposing changes, including compiling these in one place and ensuring it's contemporary.

Please visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/licensingpolicyconsultation to examine the draft policy and to give your comments. Closing date is Monday 4 January, 2021.

Dacorum Borough Council

Committee Meetings

Due to COVID-19, committee meetings have been taking place online. If you would like to participate please email: Member.support@dacorum.gov.uk and the link will be sent to you. All decisions are added to our website: www.dacorum.gov.uk five days after the meetings. We will update the public when council meetings re-sit at the Forum.

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 13 January

Wednesday 24 February

Wednesday 14 April

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 15 December

Tuesday 19 January

Tuesday 9 February

Tuesday 16 March

Tuesday 20 April

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 1 December

Tuesday 20 January

Tuesday 2 February

Tuesday 23 March

Housing and Community

Tuesday 1 December

Wednesday 5 January

Tuesday 2 February

Tuesday 3 March

Finance and Resources

Tuesday 1 December

Wednesday 6 January

Tuesday 2 February

Tuesday 9 March

Health in Dacorum

Wednesday 10 March

Development Management Committee

This committee makes decisions on planning applications.

Thursday 17 December

Thursday 7 January

Thursday 28 January

Thursday 18 February

Thursday 11 March

Thursday 1 April

Thursday 22 April

Other committee meetings

Licensing (Health and Safety and Enforcement)

See website below for future dates

Dacorum Community Safety Partnership

See website below for future dates

Standards Committee

Thursday 10 December

Thursday 4 March

Audit Committee

Wednesday 3 February

Wednesday 17 March

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



Love where you live

This September, more than 100 volunteers from around Dacorum rallied together in the Great British September Clean, to litter pick their local streets, parks and play areas. Through sunshine and rain these dedicated litter heroes collected 75 bags of rubbish and over 45 bags of recycling.

In addition, this year, our Clean, Safe and Green team have cleared eight and a half tonnes of rubbish from the A41 alone.

We also have a dedicated group of volunteers, the Street Champions, who help improve their local area by litter-picking as well as reporting issues and taking part in environmental activities to improve where they live.

These local heroes have made a real difference to our community and they helped to clear some of the scourge of COVID-19-related litter, including used facemasks and gloves that have been discarded. Littering PPE is damaging to the environment and also puts other people at risk. PPE must be disposed of in your non-recyclable bin at home or a litter bin if you're outside to help protect others and the environment.

Currently, globally 129 billion masks are being dumped in the environment every month. Reusable masks are a great alternative - you can buy them in most shops and online and they will save you money in the long run.

As well as costing the tax payer a lot of money to clear, litter is a severe hazard to wildlife, injuring or killing thousands of animals and birds every year. We all need to do our bit to protect where we live, the countryside and wildlife and one very simple way we can all make a difference is to take our litter home with us.

We can help you organise your own litter pick where you live. For more information, or to request litter-picking equipment visit: www.dacorum.gov.uk/litterpick or to become a Street Champion visit: www.dacorum.gov.uk/street-champions



New seeds of life at allotment site

New life has been breathed into an allotment site in Adayfield, Hempstead Hempstead.

Clean, Safe and Green worked with a team of volunteers to clear the overgrown site and reconfigure the plots so they were easier to access.

Six full-size plots have been retained and about 14 new, smaller plots are to be marked out.

Adayfield West Ward Councillor Adrian England, said: "We are planning to convert about half of these large plots at Windmill Road into easy-to-manage half-plots. Local residents have come forward to put the work in to re-establish this allotment site and make it a fruit and vegetable producing asset for Adayfield west."



Keeping Dacorum Active

We've been keeping the community connected and motivated during the year with virtual events.

In August we ran our first Virtual Wellness Festival at the Active Dacorum Hub with seven online activities. From family yoga to boxing fitness, the videos are still available to view through our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/DacorumBC

In October, 102 participants of all ages supported our Your Town event running or walking 5k or 10k to raise over £600 in donations for the Mayor's chosen charity RAISE dedicated to supporting patient care across Hemel Hempstead, St Albans City and Watford General Hospitals.

In partnership with The Marlowes Shopping Centre in Hemel Hempstead, Anna's Funky Art and Three Rivers District Council, we hosted a cross-district exhibition in Dacorum, showcasing artwork created by the community during lockdown. The exhibition was part of Hertfordshire Year of Culture 2020 and showcased and promoted art and creativity as a positive way to wellbeing.

Virtual events have been taking place over the past few months with communities coming together to support Hertfordshire Year of Culture 2020.

CLlr Julie Banks, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services, said: "I would like to thank our creative and cultural community who have been fantastic at supporting people online with activities throughout the pandemic and we're delighted to have worked with so many organisations, groups, businesses and artists to provide an exciting programme of activities this year."



EU CITIZENS APPLY TO THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME



If you are an EU citizen¹, you and your family members can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue to live, work and study in the UK.



To apply, you need to be an EU citizen or a non-EU family member of an EU citizen. This includes those with a UK permanent residence document.



You do not need to apply if you have indefinite leave to remain or enter, or you are an Irish citizen, but you can if you want to.



The online application checks three basic principles: **identity**, **UK residence** and **criminality**. Support is available if needed.



The scheme is open now and closes on 30 June 2021.



For more information, visit gov.uk/eu-settled-status

¹EU citizens used throughout refers to EEA and Swiss nationals, who are all eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

How will the UK's exit from the EU affect me?

The UK is leaving the EU single market and customs union on 31 December 2020.

From 1 January 2021, there will be changes for businesses that import and export goods as well as for citizens of both the UK and EU.

If you are travelling to or from the EU from January 2021, you will need to make sure:

- Your travel insurance has the right health cover
- Your passport is valid for more than six months and less than 10 years
- That you have the correct driving documents (if you are driving)
- If you are taking a pet abroad, you will need to contact your vet at least four months before you travel
- Check with your phone company if you will have to pay data roaming charges

To find out more about what you or your business needs to do from 1 January, please visit www.gov.uk/transition

Keeping you connected

You can keep up to date with all the latest council news with regular email updates.

Digital Digest brings essential information straight to your inbox.

Subscribing is quick and easy to do, just visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/digitaldigest

Local Plan Emerging Strategy for Growth

To find out more and to share your views visit:

www.dacorum.gov.uk/localplan

