

ABOUT



# WATFORD



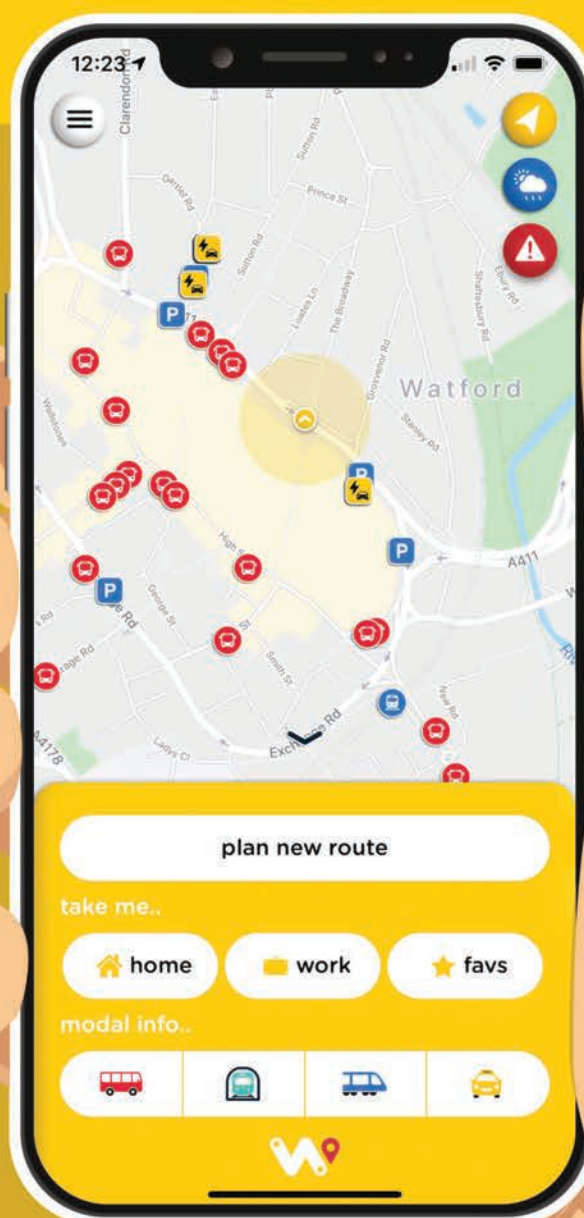
**WATFORD**  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL

Spring 2020

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**Peter Taylor**  
Elected Mayor of  
Watford

[www.watford.gov.uk/electedmayor](http://www.watford.gov.uk/electedmayor)

**Spring is the season of new beginnings and we have an abundance of these here in Watford.**

First, I would like to welcome Watford Borough Council's newly appointed Managing Director Donna Nolan, who joins us at an exciting time. Watford also has a newly elected MP, Dean Russell, and I will be working with him over the next few years to ensure Watford remains a great place to live and work.

You will see that changes are afoot to the waste services we provide through our environmental service partner, Veolia (page 10) and these will affect all residents. We are introducing a new food waste collection, changing the non-recyclable black bin service into a bi-weekly collection and making garden waste a chargeable service. These changes are designed to encourage residents to recycle more, make sure we maintain an excellent service and get good value for money.

It's never easy to respond to a 70% cut in central government funding but it is so important that we do all we can to continue to provide great services for residents. We are generating more income by providing services for other councils and from commercial property. This means we can invest in the things that make Watford a super place to live, such as our award-winning parks, our dementia friendly town activities, community charities and our extensive arts and events programme that runs throughout the year and brings our diverse community together.

You will see in our budget breakdown (pages 4-5) that we are spending on a range of sustainable transport initiatives that go live later this month - these are designed to reduce car traffic, pollution and CO<sub>2</sub> and to get people moving efficiently and more healthily around the town.

Finally, I would ask you to read a Q&A I've put together (pages 20-21) that reflects the many questions I get from residents about development in the town. I understand the concerns that people have but I know also that our town will be changing in the years ahead. It is important to be honest about the situation we face but we must make sure that, as much as possible, we are in control of this change.

If you have an issue that you think I might be able to help with, please get in touch at [themayor@watford.gov.uk](mailto:themayor@watford.gov.uk) or call my office number on **01923 278371**.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



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## WE'RE HERE TO HELP IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

[www.watford.gov.uk](http://www.watford.gov.uk)

Email: [enquiries@watford.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@watford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01923 226400

Watford Borough Council, Town Hall, Watford, WD17 3EX

Customer Service Centre open Monday to Thursday  
8.45am to 5.15pm and Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm



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# Council tax set for 2020/21



## A message from Elected Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor

This is a really exciting year for our town. This year, we passed a budget that:

- Delivers better transport for Watford
- Supports vulnerable people
- Invests in our parks, leisure centres and community events

It is no secret that this is a challenging time for local councils. We have seen a £4m a year reduction in our funding from central government. Despite this, we have been able to keep council tax increases down and continue to deliver good quality services for our town.

In spring, we will be launching a new bike hire scheme and a new on demand bus service, ArrivaClick. Many residents speak to me about congestion in the town and how difficult it can be to get around Watford. That's why it is important that we are investing in schemes that will help tackle congestion, make Watford greener and make our air cleaner.

No one should have to sleep rough and that's why we working with others to do even more to tackle homelessness. This year we

have secured nearly half a million pounds in additional support for people sleeping rough as well as building new council houses for local families. People deserve a permanent roof over their heads.

I am also looking forward to seeing further improvements to our fantastic parks and green spaces. This year will see the completion of the new Oxhey Activity Park, including a new café, play areas and facilities for cyclists and skateboarders. We'll also see improvements to Garston Park as well as new facilities for Watford Cycle Hub.

Watford is a town with an incredibly strong sense of community - there is so much so much that we can be proud of. This budget means that we can continue to deliver excellent services for every resident in Watford, care for those who are most in need and improve public transport in the town.

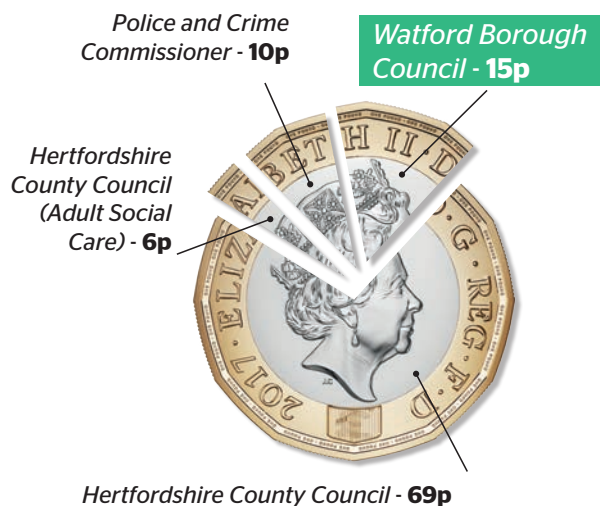
As ever, if you have any issue that you think I can help with, please contact me at [themayor@watford.gov.uk](mailto:themayor@watford.gov.uk) or on my office at **01923 278371**.

*Peter Taylor*

**Elected Mayor of Watford**  
[www.watford.gov.uk/electedmayor](http://www.watford.gov.uk/electedmayor)

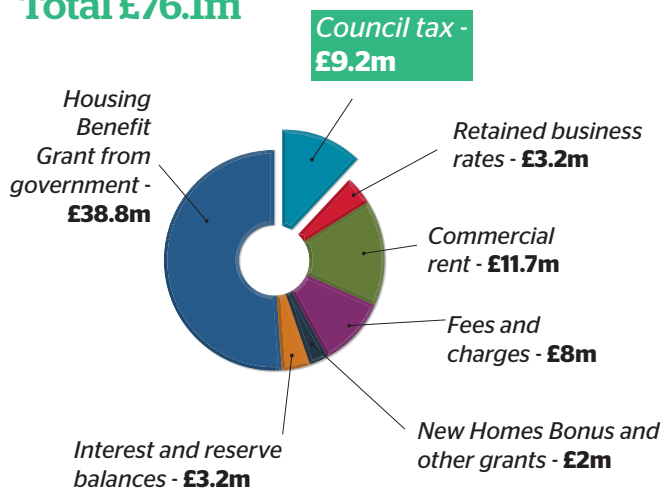


## Where your money goes









## Where our money comes from

Total **£76.1m**



## What we spend our money on:

Total **£76.1m**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Benefit - <b>£39.2m</b> (99% from <i>Housing Benefit Grant from government</i>)</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing and tackling homelessness - <b>£3.2m</b></li> </ul> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parks and Open Spaces, Cultural Services and community events - <b>£5.1m</b></li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning, Economic Development, Property Management, Transport and Parking - <b>£8m</b></li> </ul> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Services, Street Cleaning, Environmental Health and Licensing - <b>£7.6m</b></li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elections, Legal and Resident Support Services - <b>£13m</b></li> </ul> 

## How much council tax will I pay?

Band	Hertfordshire County Council	Hertfordshire County Council (Adult Social Care)	Police & Crime Commissioner	Watford Borough Council	Total
A	£860.82	£81.98	£132.00	£182.39	£1,257.19
B	£1,004.26	£95.67	£154.00	£212.79	£1,466.72
C	£1,147.75	£109.32	£176.00	£243.19	£1,676.26
D	£1,291.21	£122.99	£198.00	£273.59	£1,885.79
E	£1,578.16	£150.31	£242.00	£334.39	£2,304.86
F	£1,865.07	£177.66	£286.00	£395.19	£2,723.92
G	£2,152.03	£204.97	£330.00	£455.98	£3,142.98
H	£2,582.42	£245.98	£396.00	£547.18	£3,771.58
% increase	2%*	2%*	5.32 %	2%	3.83%

\* For questions relating to Hertfordshire County Council's figures, please visit [hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax](http://hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax) email [contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or phone 0300 123 4040.

## How to pay your council tax

There are a number of different ways to pay your council tax.

 **Direct Debit** - Take the hassle out of paying - visiting [www.watford.gov.uk/directdebit](http://www.watford.gov.uk/directdebit)

 **Online** - Pay for it online using the online payment facility at [www.watford.gov.uk/pay](http://www.watford.gov.uk/pay)

 **Telephone** - Use our 24 hour payment line on **01923 278989**

For more information about council tax visit [www.watford.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.watford.gov.uk/counciltax)

Figures correct at time of publication

# Help us take local action on global climate change

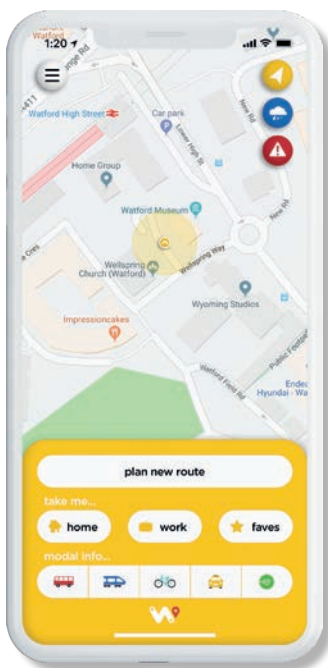
A comprehensive and ambitious plan for how to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030 was approved by Watford Borough Council's Cabinet. It means all of us making big changes to the way we live, work and travel. A range of activities aimed at tackling transport, which currently accounts for 25% of our total carbon emissions, is already underway.

## travelWatford app is ready to download



travelWatford, the new app developed by Watford Borough Council for

residents, workers and visitors to the town is now live and ready to download from App and Play stores.



Drawing from real time data, the app gives you details of all the options available for getting around the town along with the financial and the carbon footprint of each of these. Already over 500 people

have downloaded the app and have started to make positive changes to the way they travel.



## 24/7 bikeshare scheme launched



200 pedal bikes are now available to Watford residents from 70 parking bays at key locations across the town - just look out for the mint green Beryl cycles.

Electric bikes will also shortly be

introduced which will allow users to navigate the town quickly and carbon free (the electric bikes are solar powered) whilst burning calories and keeping fit and healthy. To join the scheme you need to download the free Beryl Bikes app from App and Play stores.



## Going your way: on demand bus in action from 24 March



A fleet of seven  
15 seater buses,  
operated by  
ArrivaClick, that

respond to an individual's journey request rather than following a fixed route will operate across the borough, providing an alternative option for getting around town without using a car.

The buses are fully accessible and Disability Discrimination Act compliant, with front kerbside double door access and a low-level, fold-out wheelchair ramp. The wheelchair space comfortably fits medium to large electric wheelchairs and can also be used for pushchairs. Passengers can pre-register as a wheelchair user.

The buses can be booked via a free ArrivaClick Watford app that you can download at App and Play stores.



**“ If we have not taken dramatic action within the next decade, we could face irreversible damage to the natural world and the collapse of our societies. ”**

Sir David Attenborough



# Electric vehicles: helping to reduce our carbon footprint

As part of its commitment to support green transport, Watford Borough Council is working with a number of partners to reduce the carbon footprint of the borough and of the council itself and to improve air quality in the town.

Key to this is encouraging the use of electric vehicles through our e-car hire scheme, the installation of more EV charging points across the town and additional funding through government grants.

## Why not give electric vehicles a go?

In partnership with E-Car Club, we offer residents electric vehicles for hire from the town centre. Two electric Renault ZOE 40KWH hatchbacks are parked in Watford Town Hall car park and a Nissan Leaf is parked at Avenue Car Park. They can be booked by the hour

or several days at a time. You can experience emission-free travel by booking an E-Car for £6.50 per hour and £60 per day with unlimited mileage, power and insurance included. For more information, visit [ecarclub.co.uk](http://ecarclub.co.uk).

## New EV charging points in the town

Seven new electric vehicle charging points providing charging opportunities for up to 14 vehicles will be installed in six locations across Watford by the end of March, thanks to funding from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles and Electric Blue. These will be



located in the following wards: Park, Callowland, Vicarage, Central and Nascot.

The new charging points are being placed in convenient locations where residents can charge their vehicles for as little as 20p per charge via the Electric Blue app. Residents can top up for a maximum of four hours or take a full charge if they leave it charging overnight. Residents can find out where their nearest charger is by visiting [www.zap-map.com](http://www.zap-map.com), which will plot all charging points in Watford in the coming months.





# Green initiatives for leisure centres

A number of environmentally friendly initiatives have been introduced at **Watford Central and Woodside leisure centres in a bid to reduce single-use plastics and save energy.**

A 'no shoes' policy has been rolled out which does away with the need for thousands of plastic overshoes. Customers can wear flip-flops and crocs instead.

A new way to generate heat and electricity more efficiently has also been unveiled. Combined Heat and Power (CHP) generates electricity and heat from a single process and fuel source.

Heat is recovered and used to regulate the temperature in the building. This technique reduces carbon emissions by between 40-45%.

# New building for Watford Cycle Hub

**Watford Borough Council is investing in a new building for Watford Cycle Hub, a non-profit community based facility located next to the Holywell Community Centre.**

Since its formation seven years ago the hub provides a range of services to Watford

cyclists, including cycle repair and maintenance courses, bike recycling and reconditioning services and cycle training. As well as office, workshop and showroom space, the new larger building will have a community café and social space. The new building opens in April. See [watfordcyclehub.org.uk](http://watfordcyclehub.org.uk)

# Whippendell Woods restoration



**Work starts soon to restore Whippendell Woods, one of England's rare ancient woodlands, to its former natural state.**

The five year restoration project by Watford Borough Council, Natural England, the Forestry Commission and the Woodland Trust involves the gradual removal of conifers to allow a greater amount of light to penetrate the woodland canopy.

This will encourage specialist ancient woodland species like Birch and Rowan to recover and it will support more wildlife diversity.

# New cycle racks at Watford Met Station

**Watford Borough Council has installed new cycle racks at Watford Metropolitan Station bringing the number of bicycle parking spaces to over 80.**



*Elected Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor and Watford Cycle Hub Director, Kate Jenkins break ground on site*



# Your waste and recycling collection service is changing from July 2020

Watford Borough Council, is introducing changes to the way waste and recycling is collected across the borough.

These changes are being made to offer Watford residents greater opportunities to recycle and in response to the 70% reduction the council has faced in government funding since 2010. The changes will be delivered by our environmental services partner Veolia who have significant experience in implementing similar changes in councils across the UK.

## What will change?

From July 2020 the council is introducing:



**Weekly food waste collection (brown bin)**

Food waste makes up around 30% of the waste currently thrown away in the

black bin. We are introducing a separate weekly collection for food waste in a new brown outdoor 23 litre food bin.

This bin will be smaller than your other outdoor bins and slightly larger than your indoor kitchen

caddy (5 litre). Recycling food waste is much better for the environment because it can be composted and used as fertiliser or turned into biofuel that generates electricity.

If you don't have a kitchen caddy and would like one, you can collect one, free of charge, from the Town Hall, during opening hours or from **Wiggenhall Depot, Wiggenhall Road, WD18 0FB** on Thursdays between 2 - 4pm. You can have it delivered to you for a £5.80 delivery charge. Please contact Veolia on [enquiries.watford@veolia.com](mailto:enquiries.watford@veolia.com) or call **020 3567 6900** to arrange delivery.



**Fortnightly chargeable garden waste (green bin) collection**

Watford Borough Council is

also introducing a charge for the garden waste service, which currently the council does not have to legally provide. In order to continue the service, in a fairer

way for residents, a charge is being introduced, which will go towards covering the cost of the service.

The council is always looking at ways to encourage residents to recycle more whilst also juggling the demands of a 70% reduction in funding from central government in the last 10 years. Charging for the service brings Watford into line with the majority of councils in England - with nearly two thirds now charging.

The charge, to be paid annually, works out as:

- £45 per bin per year (debit or credit card)
- £40 per bin per year (Direct Debit)
- £35 per bin per year (with council-related benefits, no further reduction for Direct Debit)

This works out as £1.53 per collection based on signing up one bin by Direct Debit (with collections starting in July). Residents can have up to seven green bins, each charged at the same price.



**Fortnightly non-recyclable waste (black bin) collection**

Over 60% of household waste can be recycled and doesn't need to

go in the black bin. By collecting recyclables and food waste every week, most household waste will be taken away weekly, leaving more space in the black bin for waste that cannot be

recycled, such as soft plastics and polystyrene.











**Weekly recycling (blue-lidded bin) collection**

Collections for the blue-lidded bin are staying the same and

will continue on a weekly basis to support residents to recycle.

**For residents living in flats, in blocks of six or more, the only change will be to your garden waste collection. Further information will be made available in due course**

**How your collections are changing from July 2020**

	What goes in your bin	When it will be collected
<p><b>Brown outdoor food bin (food waste)</b></p>  <p><b>NEW</b> service and new bin</p>	<p>All cooked and uncooked food waste including meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, tea bags, coffee grounds and plate scrapings</p>	 <p>Weekly collection</p>
<p><b>Blue-lidded bin (recycling)</b></p>  <p><b>NO CHANGE</b></p>	<p>Paper, cardboard, magazines, cans, tins, aerosols, glass bottles and jars, aluminium foil, food and liquid cartons, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays</p>	 <p>Weekly collection</p>
<p><b>Green bin (garden waste)</b></p>  <p><b>CHANGE</b> to chargeable service</p>	<p>Garden waste only including grass, leaves, hedge clippings, twigs, plants, flowers and weeds</p>	 <p>Fortnightly collection</p>
<p><b>Black bin (non-recyclable waste)</b></p>  <p><b>CHANGE</b> to fortnightly collection</p>	<p>Waste that cannot be recycled, such as polystyrene, plastic bags, salad bags, cling film and nappies</p>	 <p>Fortnightly collection</p>

For more information visit: [watfordrecycles.com](http://watfordrecycles.com)

# Because we're happy

**It's official! Watford is the happiest place in the East of England region**

**Watford has scored the highest happiness rating in Hertfordshire and in all of the East of England region, according to the annual Office for National Statistics (ONS) survey, which asked people aged 16 and over across the UK to rate four areas of their personal wellbeing for 2018/19.**

The average happiness score for respondents in Watford was 8.02, positioning Watford as the 14th happiest place in the UK. According to ONS research, people's views about their health, employment and relationship status are the factors most likely to impact how they rate their personal wellbeing.

People are asked to give their answers on a scale of 0 to 10,

where 0 is "not at all" and 10 is "completely". These questions allow people to make an assessment of their life overall, as well as providing an indication of their day-to-day emotions.

Elected Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor, said "It's no surprise to me that our town has been rated so highly. Watford is a great place to live with fantastic parks, an incredibly strong sense of community and people who care for one another.

"We have made it a priority to invest in the things that are important to people like our green spaces, the town centre and local theatres to ensure that this continues to be a place that people love to live in and are proud to call home."

**Sue Lacey, volunteer at Electric Umbrella said: "I went to school in Watford 40+ years ago and have lived in the area ever since. I'm excited by the regeneration that is going on within the town.**

**"I love the open breathy space of Cassiobury Park and the weekly community that Parkrun brings, not forgetting the free live events that take place there throughout the year. As an arts and music lover, I appreciate the superb and varied venues of the Colosseum, The Palace and The Horns.**

**"Watford's heart is fantastically vibrant and beating, full of active business and volunteer communities working together and creating networks of support to look after each other and ensure that we thrive. It's an exciting time to be part of it, full of colour, character and diversity."**

**Lucas, another Watford resident, said: "The town centre has improved massively so there's loads more to do now and we have Watford FC who I've been following since I was a kid. Also the food in the market is great - my favourite is the jerk chicken from Roti Pan Kitchen."**



*Imagine Watford Arts Festival*



# Leisure in Watford

## Visitors to Cassiobury Park reach all time high

Over two million people visited our award winning Cassiobury Park during 2019.

They enjoyed nature walks, playgrounds and paddling pools, sports, music and dance events and a whole range of other activities that contribute to the park's status as a 'Much Loved' green space and one of the top ten parks in the UK.

- Over 105,000 children splashed about in the paddling pools during the summer months.
- Thousands participated in Big Bandstand, Make Music Day, Big JiveSwing, Herts Pride and the Peace Hospice Care Starlight Walk.
- School holiday programmes like Stay and Play, Cassiobury Explorers and Forest School, had 4,079 participants.
- 27 school education programmes were attended by 1,489 school children.
- 1,040 people joined in the celebration for the mini-railway, now a feature in the park for 60 years.



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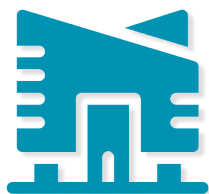
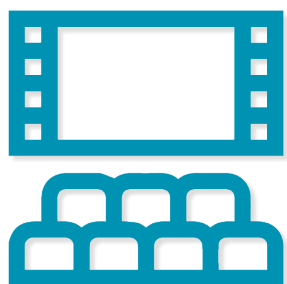


**20** Sports and fitness facilities

**20**  
parks



**2**  
cinemas



A top  
**20**  
retail  
destination  
in UK

**36**  
playgrounds

**97,000**  
population

**80+**  
events and  
festivals



**65**  
restaurants



# Meet the Market Traders

Since its origin in the 12th century, Watford's market has been providing sustenance and a range of valuable services to people in the town. We caught up with some of its current traders.

## Aylesbury Fisheries



**How long have you been trading at Watford Market?**

35 years in Watford, five on the market.

**What's the best thing about the Market?**

The diverse offerings. Where else can you get beautiful fresh fish and then get your hair cut?

**Anything else you want to add?**

We have fantastic produce, you can see us from the high street but come early to avoid disappointment!

## Jumping Jacks



**How long have you been trading at Watford Market?**

Four years.

**What's the best thing about the Market?**

The customers are great. I'm able to meet new people all the time and get instant feedback on my menu.

**Anything else you want to add?**

Keep coming! I have a fantastic, tasty, competitively priced menu.

## Mentality Barbershop



**How long have you been trading at Watford Market?**

13 years barbering, three years in Watford, two months on the market.

**What's the best thing about the Market?**

It's given me a great base to establish my business. Quirker location than the standard high street.

**Anything else you want to add?**

Look me up on Booksy. I can do walk-ins but best to book in advance!

## Hickman Fruit and Veg



**How long have you been trading at Watford Market?**

30 years in Watford, five on the market.

**What's the best thing about the Market?**

The traders. Everyone gets on great, friendly to the public and make the market a pleasure to be part of.

**Anything else you want to add?**

Come and check us out, we have quality seasonal fruit and veg.

Watford Market is open Tuesday to Saturdays, 9am to 5.30pm. It's located on Watford High Street in between the flyover and Watford House Lane.

[www.watford.gov.uk/watfordmarket](http://www.watford.gov.uk/watfordmarket)



# Businesses and residents join the dementia-friendly Watford movement

Almost 6,000 people in Watford have become Dementia Friends which means they have a greater understanding of the condition and how they can help people who have it to live well in their communities.



Local businesses including banks have also been getting involved in the movement by completing Dementia Friends training and turning their new understanding of dementia into supportive action for customers with the condition. New dementia-friendly businesses include: Natwest, Metro Bank, Ocean Bells Café, Watford Fire Station, TUI, HSBC, FT Taylor pharmacy and Halifax.

Elected Mayor Peter Taylor said: "We started the Dementia-Friendly Watford movement about

12 months ago with the aim of transforming how we all think, act and talk about the condition in the town. I am delighted that so many people and the business community have come on board - this is a testament to the kind and caring nature of people across our town."

## How you can get involved

**Memory Café** - for residents living with dementia and their carers. First Friday of every month, St Mary's Church, 10.30am - 12:30pm.

**Golden Memories** - the reminiscence programme for people with low to moderate dementia who are interested in the history of Watford FC. Wednesdays, 10.30am - 12.30pm from 4 March and Golden Friends, the continuation group, Tuesdays, 10.30am - 12.30pm.

**Herts Musical Memories** - Fun and therapeutic singing sessions for people with dementia and their carers every Friday from 10.30 to 12pm, Stanborough Centre, St Albans Road. Music24 also runs sessions at the Pump House.

**Dementia Action Week** - a series of events held between 11 May and 17 May to help support residents living with dementia, their carers and those who want to learn more about it.

**Coming Soon: Dementia-Friendly Restaurant** - Watford Borough Council and West Herts College catering students are introducing the town's first dementia-friendly restaurant. Dates for this will be shared soon.



Watford FC legend Luther Blissett at a 'Golden Memories' session

## Become a dementia friend or a dementia-friendly business

To find out more or to get involved in any of these activities, contact Kerrie Marks or Nicola Webster on 01923 278416 or visit [dementiafriendlywatford.com](http://dementiafriendlywatford.com)

# A new Managing Director for Watford Borough Council

Former Deputy Chief Executive of Mendip District Council, Donna Nolan becomes the first female to take up the role of Managing Director of Watford Borough Council.

Following the decision by current Managing Director, Manny Lewis to retire after leading the organisation for the last 10 years, Donna Nolan has been appointed in his place.

Speaking about the appointment, Elected Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor said: “Donna joins us at a very exciting time for the council and the town. She has big shoes to fill but she is already getting to grips with our ambitious plans, including putting Watford at the forefront of sustainable transport solutions, delivering high quality, affordable new homes and outstanding new leisure and sports facilities in Oxhey Park and at Woodside.



“Donna brings a wealth of experience from her career at Mendip and other roles in both the public and private sector. Everyone at Watford is very much looking forward to working with her on building on our reputation

as one of the most forward-thinking, high performing district councils in the country.”

Donna said: “I’m thrilled to be Watford Borough Council’s new Managing Director. It is an honour to have been offered the opportunity to work with Peter, the elected members and the excellent staff to deliver what will be an ambitious and exciting agenda for the future.

“Watford is a bold and forward-thinking authority and I am really excited by the opportunity to develop the borough’s reputation further and make sure that we deliver the best possible services for its communities.”

## WATFORD’S DRAFT HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2020-25

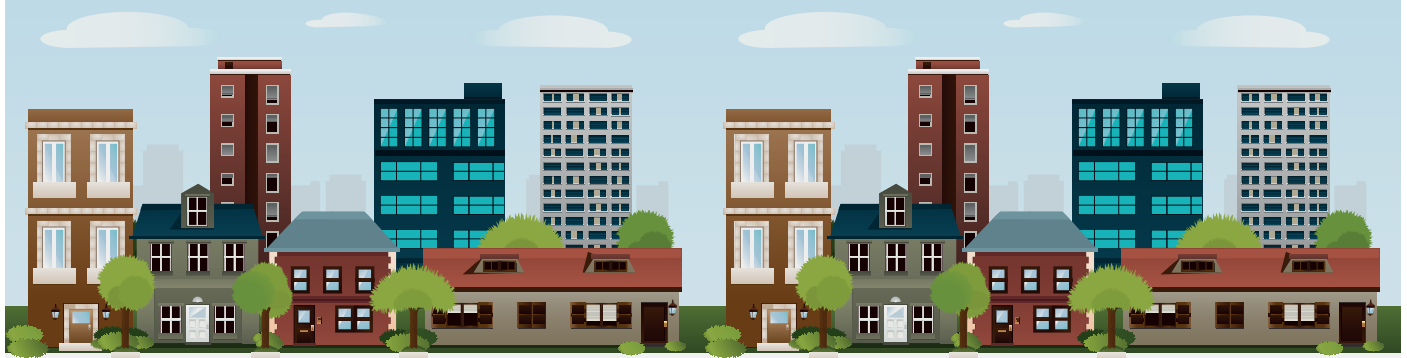
We want Watford to be a place where no-one needs to sleep rough and there is support available for everyone threatened with or actually homeless.

Tell us what you think of our new five year strategy at

[www.watford.gov.uk/homelessness](http://www.watford.gov.uk/homelessness)



WATFORD  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL



# Help and support for victims of domestic abuse

Women's centres have been in decline in recent years due to lack of funding, with centres in Harrow and Stevenage closing recently. Watford Women's Centre is bucking the trend and continues to provide a range of valuable services to the community.



Fiona Miller is the CEO of Watford Women's Centre and her colleague, Alison Thomas, is the Domestic Abuse Services Co-ordinator. About Watford spent a morning at the centre to find out more about the services on offer.

## How long has the Women's Centre been in Watford?

Watford Women's Centre celebrated its 30th anniversary last year. We are located on Market Street and we are the only women's centre remaining in Hertfordshire. As well as supporting Watford residents we are increasingly helping women outside the borough.

## Tell us a bit about what you do?

The centre's ethos is about empowering women to make positive changes in their lives,

not only providing support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, but offering a wide range of services that improve wellbeing, build self esteem and reduce the isolation and stigma that many women experience.

## What kind of services do you provide?

As well as low cost counselling and free legal advice, we provide a range of education and training opportunities including:

- Personal development courses
- IT skills
- English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses
- Careers advice and regular Job Club
- Volunteering opportunities

We also host a range of social groups including: arts and crafts, coffee mornings, discussion

groups and yoga so people have the chance to come together and be part of a social network.

## What are the key issues facing the centre?

Lack of funding. Some services such as community learning and outreach are supported by Hertfordshire County Council, however, the centre remains heavily reliant on donations, fundraising and volunteer support to continue to offer a free domestic abuse service and low cost counselling to women in need.

## Can you tell us a bit about the new Lottery Community Fund project?

The centre has received funding from the Lottery Community Fund to develop a pioneering service for women. The project called "MyAlly" will offer women a telephone based support helpline from trained and dedicated volunteers to provide women with empathy, understanding and a shoulder to lean on and talk to in times of hardship. This service is the first of its kind in Hertfordshire.

For more information about Watford Women's Centre Plus visit [wwcplus.org.uk](http://wwcplus.org.uk)



# Get active and stay active

Watford Get Active's high quality programmes are designed to meet the needs of Watford's diverse communities. All activities are provided locally, at low cost or for free.

Many adults and children are not meeting the national recommended levels for physical activity. One in five adults in Hertfordshire currently does less than thirty minutes of activity a week, which means they are missing out on a wide range of physical, mental and social benefits.

Regular physical activity is a natural medicine. It can reduce the risk of developing over 20 chronic conditions such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some types of cancer. It can also help improve symptoms of depression and is a great way to meet new people, improve social connections, lift a low mood and improve sleep.

Watford Get Active is a project to get more people in Watford active. The programme - now in its sixth year - has received hundreds of thousands of pounds of funding, obtained by the council in grants from Sport England and other organisations. There are a whole host of activities to get involved in from badminton to skateboarding. If you are looking to get back into sport, get fit or just try something new, we have lots of things for you to have a go at.

Whether it's getting involved as a family, coming along with your friends or popping down on your

own, there will be something on offer to get you active. Our aims are to:

- Run individual and family sporting activities
- Provide equipment and support to communities
- Work with existing community and voluntary sector groups
- Work with a range of partners
- Link the project with health and well-being initiatives
- Ensure staffs are trained to a high standard.

Since September 2014, around 6,000 people have engaged with the Watford Get Active Programme with over 68,880 attendances.

Many women have gone from the couch to running 5k on our *learn to run* course with one woman commenting:

"I hadn't exercised for three years before joining learn to run and the first week I struggled. The first time I ran for 10 minutes non stop I was so overwhelmed I cried! Today I ran 34 minutes, without stopping and felt amazing. I don't know if I'm a proper runner yet but I definitely know I'm going to continue to push myself to get fitter."



Find out more at  
[watfordgetactive.co.uk](http://watfordgetactive.co.uk)

# Restoration underway of one of Watford's oldest buildings

**300 year-old Frogmore House and garden is undergoing major renovation and repair, thanks to plans passed by Watford Borough Council.**

**The Grade II\* listed building (one of only four in Watford), located on Lower High Street, is undergoing a full refurbishment and restoration at a cost of around £2million to bring it back into active use.**

The property, built in 1716, had been used as residential accommodation throughout the years but fell into disrepair during the 1970s. By the 1990s it was suffering from a variety of issues and was listed on Historic England's Heritage at Risk register.

A requirement of the planning permission granted for supermarket Lidl and the adjacent residential development which

are on the same site as Frogmore, meant that the developer had to restore the building. The council worked with the National Grid (the former owners of the site) for a number of years to secure a viable restoration scheme.

The whole of Frogmore House, (except for the single-storey rear extension which was added at a later date), is being retained and the historical and architectural value of the building is being preserved. When completed later this year, the building, owned by St William Homes LLP, (a joint venture between the Berkeley Group and National Grid Property) will be let as office space.



Elected Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor said: "Frogmore House is a really important part of our town's history. Having fallen into disrepair many years ago it is great that the building is being restored and brought back into use. We are committed to preserving and enhancing Watford's heritage."

Frogmore also sits on the banks of the River Colne. As part of the plan, the current concrete embankment is undergoing re-profiling work and will be replaced with a landscaped, sloped embankment to not only improve the look of the area, but increase the capacity of the river and reduce the flood risk.





# Focusing on development

Your questions answered by Watford's Mayor

Since I took up the role of Mayor, the issue that I get asked about most is development in Watford. Whilst some welcome the opportunity and the new facilities and services growth brings (such as our outstanding intu centre) others are concerned about how the town will cope with more people.



Elected Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor

**As a council, we are working hard to positively manage the growth in our town so that it continues to be a great place to live, work and visit but it is a challenge.**

We are in the midst of an unprecedented housing crisis. Watford people, and others, need homes because it is impossible to live well without one.

Our focus is to make sure we have the right high quality homes in the right places and the much needed infrastructure to go with them. In this way, we can protect the things that are important to you - like our wonderful parks and green spaces, the outstanding town centre, community facilities and our local history and heritage.

**1. Why is there so much development in Watford - it's a small town that's already really busy?**

Watford is a popular place to live and people want to move here so demand for homes is high. The government has trebled our housing targets to deliver approximately 800 new homes a year or 14,000 up to 2036. The council has identified that there is only enough land available for about 7,500 and we are trying to deliver against this in the best way possible. You will have seen that I am making Watford's case about their housing targets to government on a regular basis as it is really important government understands the impact the targets could have on the town.

**2. Can't you just tell the government, 'no'?**

It would be great if we could! But like all public bodies we have to conform with national policies. We can't just tell the government to get lost! The government can and does overturn local planning decisions, and take planning powers away from councils that are not delivering enough new homes. There are rumours of further changes to the planning system to make it easier to get planning permission and reduce councils' powers further. In the face of this we are trying to retain as much control as possible. For example, by making the most of the brownfield sites that do come forward, we stand a better chance of being able to protect the character of existing residential areas.

**3. Why are we allowing high rise developments in a mostly low rise town?**

At just 8 square miles, Watford is a small borough. There is no land available to build on so we are using land that has already been built on. We don't have the option to build outwards to meet government targets, so the only choice is to build up.

We are trying to focus on sites near to key transport hubs like Watford Junction because new residents will have the best access to services and facilities such as the town centre, shops, employment, schools and public transport and less likely to need to drive to work. It also means we don't have to provide a large number of car parking spaces because of the good transport links, which helps lessen the number of additional cars on our roads.

This is not unique to Watford. Places like Wembley, Harrow, Woking and Croydon are also seeing taller buildings going up to meet their councils' housing need. Anyone going to Wembley stadium to see last year's cup final or semi final will have noticed this.

**4. Why can't development go where there is land available?**

National policy is designed to protect the green belt and focus development in existing towns and cities. This is



why places like Watford are facing the most pressure. We are working with neighbouring councils to develop a joint strategic growth plan for South West Hertfordshire and this is about coming together to create bigger developments where there is land available but this will take time to get off the ground and the pressure remains on us to deliver homes for people now.

## 5. What powers do you really have as a council?

All developments have to meet the requirements of the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development and requires councils to 'positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area'. So we cannot just veto controversial development. It is very difficult to reject a development that meets national standards. We have been preparing a Local Plan so we can strengthen our town's voice on where development should be located. This will be submitted for approval by central government this spring.

## 6. Why can't the council reject certain developments? What happens if we say no?

If we say no to a development that meets national requirements, the developer can legally appeal the decision and we have to defend it. This can be extremely costly and if a scheme conforms to planning policy, it is just a futile gesture. We focus instead on getting the best deal we can from a developer: high quality development, great amenity space, community infrastructure, educational facilities and good sustainable transport options like car clubs and electric vehicle charging.

## 7. Watford needs affordable housing but why do new developments not always have many of these types of home?

In Watford, for developments with 10 or more homes, we require that 35% of the homes are affordable. But national planning policy allows developers to say that if a scheme is not viable (i.e. profitable) with this level of affordable housing they don't have to provide all the affordable housing we want. While the council always robustly checks and challenges this, it is a part of national policy.

## 8. Are we getting more infrastructure like GP surgeries and schools with more people in the town?

On every larger scale development, we enter into a legal agreement with the developer and negotiate for new infrastructure and/or affordable housing to offset the impact of the project on our town. So for instance on the recent St Albans Road/Watford Junction development, there will be a primary school and nursery and a GP surgery. In smaller projects it may not be possible to do this but the developer still has to make a contribution to Watford to offset the impact the development has on the town and this is used to improve and deliver new services and facilities.

## 9. The traffic in Watford is very congested and parking is in high demand, how will we cope with more cars?

As laid down by the government, the idea is to concentrate development near railway stations and town centres where people may have less need to rely on cars. In line with this, new developments are sited near to major transport hubs like the development planned at Watford Junction and are sold with either limited or no parking. This is the case with most of the homes sold in new developments which cannot ever be part of an existing

controlled parking zone either. There is some evidence that younger people, who are more likely to live in these developments, have lower rates of car ownership than earlier generations.

Also, in line with my manifesto commitment, a range of options for people to get around town without a car is launching this spring - putting Watford ahead of the game in offering greener ways to travel. This includes our new bike share scheme and the on-demand bus service and we also have a car share scheme, which we have plans to grow. We will continue to work with Hertfordshire County Council to improve public transport and to invest in better cycling and walking routes across the town.

## Mythbusting

**We don't have to meet the governments housing targets.**

**FALSE** - If we don't show that progress is being made to deliver more homes, our power as a council is taken away - this has already happened in Ipswich, Merton and South Oxfordshire.

**The council can say no to development.**

**FALSE** - If a development meets the national planning requirements we have limited ability to block it and developers can take costly legal action against us if we do.

**The council makes money from development. That's why it supports it.**

**FALSE** - For each project the council secures contributions from the developer that go towards affordable housing, or things like schools or community facilities or amenity space. The developer also pays the Community Infrastructure Levy which is ploughed back into our local communities.



# Oxhey Activity Park taking shape

We're bringing new sport, play and leisure facilities to our award winning Oxhey Park. The new facilities will be open this summer - here's an update on our progress so far.



Located in Oxhey Park on land north of the River Colne, the new activity park will bring together a range of activities for young people including skate boarding, BMX cycling and scooting, catering for all skill levels from beginners' right up to serious enthusiasts.

Visitors will also be able to enjoy adventurous toddler and junior play areas (disability friendly), pleasant picnic spots, outdoor table tennis tables as well as a riverside café, complete with a green roof. The project has come a long way. So far we've:

- built the steel frame of the café and started the cladding process
- begun excavations for the adventure play area, skating plaza and pump scape features
- completed junior bike skills circuit and junior skating skills feature
- Completed the jump box



Elected Mayor, Peter Taylor; Robert Broadfield, Borras Construction, Councillor Tim Williams

Elected Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor said: "I am delighted that Oxhey Activity Park is well underway. We have worked closely with the local community on the plans to make sure the scheme offers the right mix of facilities and activities that will appeal to local families.

"Our town has a great reputation for outstanding leisure facilities and Oxhey Activity Park will, I know, become a firm favourite".



During the excavation work to prepare the site for development, a number of unusual and interesting artefacts were uncovered (right). Glass and ceramic bottles, ceramic pots and jars and a ceramic hot water bottle (below) were unearthed.



The items are currently being cleaned and catalogued and will go on display at Watford Museum.

Portfolio Holder for Client Services, Councillor Tim Williams said: “Having recently visited the site with the design team, it has really brought to life just what an outstanding scheme this is for Watford. We have an ambitious programme for delivering high quality sports and leisure facilities across the borough because we know how important keeping fit and active are for people’s health and wellbeing.



“Oxhey Activity Park, when it opens in the summer, will be a great place for all wheeled sports fans as well of those of us who prefer a more relaxing stroll through the park and a cup of coffee by the river”.



Development is on schedule to have the activity park open in time for the school summer holidays.

**Find out more at [oxheyactivitypark.co.uk](http://oxheyactivitypark.co.uk)**



# Night at the museum anyone?

Housed in a Grade II listed Georgian mansion house that was once the offices of Benskins Brewery, this Visit England accredited museum tells the story of Watford past and present with over 35,000 objects and artefacts.



As well as curating the history of our town, the museum acts as a cultural focal point in Watford with a variety of music, dance, comedy and crafting events running throughout the year. In January the museum launched Watford's arts programme for Hertfordshire Year of Culture 2020 - here's a flavour of what's going on in the coming months.

## New Connections dance group

Wednesdays, 10am - 11am  
Booking required

A friendly creative dance group for the over 50s of all abilities. The class explores gentle and fluid movement sequences that improve joint mobility and muscular strength.

## Electric Head alternative comedy night

Every month

No need to book

Come along for improvised comedy, laughs and hilarity at the museum. £5 per person.

## Little Gallery Tearoom

First Saturday of every month

No need to book

Visit the museum for delicious cakes and Fairtrade hot drinks in this little space for local people to buy from local artisans.

## VE Day celebration

Saturday 9 May, 12pm - 4pm

No need to book

The museum will hold a month-long exhibition around VE day, exploring what Watford was

like during the Second World War. There will also be a free celebratory event, where people are welcome to visit and take part in activities and events. There will also be live music and refreshments.

## Museum at night event

Friday 16 May

No need to book

The museum will open its doors for exciting events and spectacular night-time displays, including live music and local guest artists. The event is family friendly and open to everyone, from 7 to 10pm.

## Heritage Open Days

11 - 20 September

A unique chance to take a look behind the scenes of Watford's iconic and hidden gems. As this is Hertfordshire's year of culture, it's set to be bigger and better than previous years.

**Did you know that the museum is also a part of Record Store Day and supports Watford Short Film Festival and Watford Fringe Festival?**

**Find out more at  
[watfordmuseum.org.uk](http://watfordmuseum.org.uk)  
or call 01923 232297**



# Remembering the Watford heroine who saved the 'kindertransport' children

Over 80 years ago, Watford played a key role in the 'Kindertransport' mission which took thousands of children to safety ahead of the outbreak of World War Two.

The humanitarian effort was led by the government and British public to take in over 10,000 children from Germany and other European countries from families that were persecuted for being Jewish.

In 1939, Kathleen Freeman gave shelter to refugee children from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia at a property near Watford Junction station which came to be known as the 'Welcome House'. The children were primarily of mixed Jewish parentage. Its inhabitants soon became known as the 'Welcome Family'.

As the house was near an important railway station and therefore subject to possible bomb damage in the event of war, Mrs Freeman moved the children to her own home, Nascot Wood House on Hempstead Road (pictured), where the Welcome Family of around 12 children, stayed until the end of the war.

The efforts of Mrs Freeman were later told in the autobiography of Henry Graupner, now living in Ottawa, Canada, who was there



during this period. In his memoir, he describes the impact of the house and how grateful he was.

He said: "My experiences and development during my years in the Welcome Family, had the most influence on my character and the sort of person I became. I could write many pages about Mrs F and I have to thank her for my upbringing on a very moral basis with a strong emphasis on education and intellectual pursuits."

In 1964, Mrs Freeman was awarded an O.B.E. for her 'outstanding services and untiring devotion to the cause of the world's children', from some years before 1939 continuing to well after 1945.

Elected Mayor of Watford Peter Taylor said: "The impact that the Second World War had on our town was enormous. Watford has always been a very caring town and the town pulled together around the war effort. Mrs Freeman is testament to this ethos, I am sure children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those who were rescued are forever grateful for her extraordinary work".

Many parents of children who had been rescued on Kindertransport were killed in the war so some children chose to stay in the UK and build new lives for themselves, as they had no family to go home to. You can find out more at [britannica.com/event/kindertransport](http://britannica.com/event/kindertransport)

### Cemetery chapel to host local creative talent

Watford Borough Council is reimagining the Chapel at Vicarage Road Cemetery into a creative space where local artists can originate and exhibit their work.

The foyer of the 162 year old stone chapel will be adapted to provide a contemporary creative space for artists and art societies in the local area. The council's aim is to enrich cultural activity and opportunity for all and, in doing so, amplify Watford's profile as a dynamic place to experience home-grown creative talent and develop artistic careers.

The chapel gallery will work with artists, local schools and community groups to host a variety of exhibitions and sessions such as painting, photography, textiles and mixed media. To find out more visit [www.watford.gov.uk/arts](http://www.watford.gov.uk/arts)



### Hertfordshire Year of Culture kicks off



Culture was in the spotlight in January when Watford Borough Council launched its 12 month programme of arts and heritage activities and events that will form a key part of Hertfordshire Year of Culture.

A host of local arts groups and partners from across the borough watched as Elected Mayor, Peter Taylor lit a special beacon to mark the occasion and to herald the start of a rich programme of activities that will showcase Watford's and Hertfordshire's talent to people around the UK. See [watfordbigevents.co.uk](http://watfordbigevents.co.uk)

### Gold status burials

Watford Borough Council's burial service has received the highest national accreditation from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management.

Elected Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor said: "A death is a very difficult time for families of loved-ones, so providing good facilities and support ensures burial services go as smoothly as possible and do not cause any additional upset. The dedication from the team is amazing and they give the community the cemeteries they deserve."



# WAT'S ON



## Free and fun activities this Easter holiday

**Mon 6 - Fri 17 April**

Following on from the hugely successful summer activities, Watford Borough Council is hosting a range of free, fun and challenging activities during the Easter holiday for children and young people aged from five to 15.

The fun starts on Monday 6 April all the way through to Friday 17 April.

There'll be a range of activities to enjoy including drama workshops, dance academy, singing and our popular stage school.

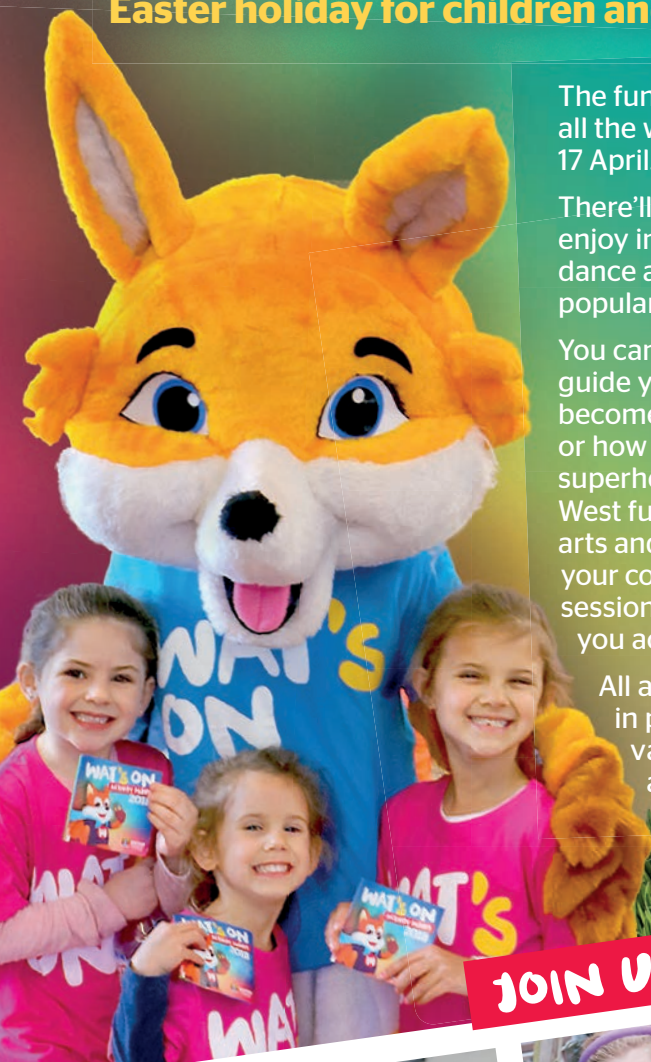
You can also let your imagination guide you on an adventure as you become a swash-buckling pirate or how about saving the world as a superhero or joining in some Wild West fun? Use your creativity in our arts and crafts sessions or let out your competitive side in our sport sessions, guaranteed to keep you active.

All activities will take place in parks, open spaces and various indoor venues across Watford.

All sessions are free and no booking is required so feel free to turn up to as many sessions as you wish.

**Due to recent data protection changes (GDPR), it is now necessary for all children and young people to be registered by a parent or responsible adult.**

For more information keep an eye on our website [watford.gov.uk/play](http://watford.gov.uk/play) and don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @[@watfordcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/watfordcouncil)



**JOIN US THIS EASTER HOLIDAY**



**ARTS & CRAFTS**



**ADVENTURE PLAY**



**STAGE SCHOOL**

**WATFORD.GOV.UK/PLAY**



# What's on

## in and around Watford

visitwatford.com 

### MARCH

#### Alan Bennett's Talking Heads

Until 29 March 2020, 7.30pm (matinees at 2.30pm)

**Watford Palace Theatre** - Tickets from £17

An evening of three entertaining monologues by one of Britain's most brilliant and best-loved writers. Darkly comic, tragically poignant and wonderfully uplifting, Talking Heads is widely regarded as a modern classic. [watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk](http://watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk) / 01923 225671

#### Photographic Early Spring Nature Walk

Wednesday 11 March 2020, 11am - 1.30pm

**Cassiobury Park** - Cost £5

Take a guided walk through Cassiobury Park with local photographer Andrew Lalchan. Take nature photos and receive advice from a pro.

Booking essential: [info@andrewlalchan.co.uk](mailto:info@andrewlalchan.co.uk)

#### AJ live

Thursday 12 March 2020, 7.30pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets from £29.50

AJ Live 2020 will combine the moments from Strictly you know and love, intertwined with new energy packed choreography for all the family, from AJ, his brother Curtis and the best new dance talent in the UK.

[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

#### ZOG

14 - 15 March 2020, show times vary

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets from £17

The smash-hit stage adaptation from Freckle Productions (the team behind Tabby McTab) is back in 2020 and promises to be bigger, brighter and more roar-some than ever before!

[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

#### Bird Watching Walk

Sunday 15 March 2020, 9 - 11am

**Cassiobury Park** - FREE

A spring introduction to the sights and sounds of birds with the Friends of Cassiobury Park. Sorry no dogs allowed. Booking essential.

Booking online: [eventbrite.co.uk/o/cassiobury-park-hub-team-18604052103](http://eventbrite.co.uk/o/cassiobury-park-hub-team-18604052103)

#### Legally Blonde the Musical

19 - 21 March 2020, 7.30pm (Saturday matinee, 2.30pm)

**Watford Pump House Theatre** - Tickets £8.50

Based on the hit-movie, *Legally Blonde* follows the famously perky Elle Woods. Ultimately she defies expectations and manages to stay true to her delightfully pink personality.

Box office: 07914 999984

#### Al Murray: Landlord Of Hope And Glory

Friday 20 March 2020, 7.30pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets from £32

A time of crisis, the world in chaos, the country divided as it has never been divided before Questions have been asked and non-answered.

[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102



Al Murray

#### Tropicana Nights

Saturday 21 March 2020, 8pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets £9

Join us at Tropicana Nights and indulge yourselves in pure 80s heaven.

[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

#### Dungeness

23 - 24 March 2020, 8pm

**Watford Pump House Theatre** - Tickets £3

A one act play, part of the National Theatre Connections programme. A play about the struggles and the joy of being gay. A play about love, commemoration and protest.

[ticketsource.co.uk/pumphousecyt](http://ticketsource.co.uk/pumphousecyt) / 0333 6663366

#### Rob Brydon: Songs and Stories

Wednesday 25 March 2020, 7.30pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets £42

Featuring a sensational live band, Songs and Stories tells Rob's personal musical journey from South Wales to Hollywood and back. With a hugely entertaining and sometimes brilliantly unexpected selection of songs.

[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102



Rob Brydon

#### The Magic of Motown

Thursday 26 March 2020, 7.30pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets from £27.50

Music fans are invited to the biggest party of the year as the unstoppable Magic of Motown show steams into town!

[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

#### Fastlove: The Everything She Wants Tour!

Friday 27 March 2020, 7.30pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets from £29.50

We knew you were waiting for this and now they're back and ready to take you to the Edge of Heaven, with Fastlove - The tribute show to George Michael.

[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

#### Heritage Talk: Mills of Cassiobury

Saturday 28 March 2020, 2 - 3pm

**Cassiobury Park Hub** - Cost £3.14 per person

Hear about the old Mills of Cassiobury by a member of the SW Herts Archaeological & Historical Society plus light refreshments.

[eventbrite.co.uk/o/cassiobury-park-hub-team-18604052103](http://eventbrite.co.uk/o/cassiobury-park-hub-team-18604052103)

#### Big Fish Little Fish

Sunday 29 March 2020, 2 - 4pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets from £8

Award-winning Big Fish Little Fish family rave return with a Lights, Camera, Action theme and Freestylers playing acid house, techno, and drum 'n' bass throughout the afternoon.

[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

### APRIL

#### Cyrano de Bergerac (West End screening)

Wednesday 1 April 2020, 2pm

**Watford Palace Theatre** - Tickets £15.50

James McAvoy returns to the stage in this reimagining of a classic tale of love and combat.

[watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk](http://watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk) / 01923 225671

#### Easter Storytime Adventure

Monday 6 April 2020, 11am-12pm and 1.30pm-2.30pm

**Cassiobury Park** - £3.14 per child

Outdoor storytelling and fun activities in the park. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Event suitable for 2 - 5 years. Booking essential.

[eventbrite.co.uk/o/cassiobury-park-hub-team-18604052103](http://eventbrite.co.uk/o/cassiobury-park-hub-team-18604052103)

#### The Big Hop 2020

Monday 6 April 2020, session times vary

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets £5 children, £15.00 adults

Join us for Easter fun in our huge auditorium filled with bouncy castles, ball pits, giant balloons, music & lights, crafts and face painting.

[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

#### Iain Stirling: Falling Upwards

Saturday 11 April 2020, 8pm

**Watford Palace Theatre** - Tickets £18.50

Do you ever wonder how people manage to be normal? Comedian Iain Stirling does. So much so he's written a brand new stand-up show about it.

[watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk](http://watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk) / 01923 225671

#### Easter Trail Hunt

Monday 13 April 2020, 1 - 3pm

**Cassiobury Park Hub** - Cost £2 per child

Come and complete our outdoor trail to win an Easter egg. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Drop in session: [cassiobury@watford.gov.uk](mailto:cassiobury@watford.gov.uk)

#### Sarah & Duck's Big Top Birthday

14 - 15 April 2020

**Watford Palace Theatre** - Tickets £10

The enchanting world of Sarah and Duck is brought to life in a brand-new stage show, featuring the wonderful characters from the BAFTA award-winning CBeebies show.

[watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk](http://watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk) / 01923 225671

#### Photographic Spring Nature Walk

Wednesday 15 April 2020, 11am - 1.30pm

**Cassiobury Park** - Cost £5

Take a guided walk through Cassiobury Park with local photographer Andrew Lalchan. Take nature photos and receive advice from a pro.

Booking essential: [info@andrewlalchan.co.uk](mailto:info@andrewlalchan.co.uk)



**RECORD STORE DAY**  
SATURDAY 18 APRIL



**Josh Widdicombe: Bit Much...**

Friday 17 April 2020, 8pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets £24.50

A very funny night of grumbles and jokes in which Josh will finally tackle the hot comedy topics of advent calendars, pesto and the closing time of his local park.  
[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

**Cheshire Cats**

13 - 18 April 2020, 7.45pm

**Watford Pump House Theatre**

Tickets from £11

Grown women, aching feet and heaving bosoms! Follow the Cheshire Cats team as they speed walk their way to fundraising success in the London Moonwalk.  
[ticketsource.co.uk/pumphousetheatrecompany/](http://ticketsource.co.uk/pumphousetheatrecompany/)  
0333 6663366

**Signs of Spring at Cassiobury Park**

Saturday 18 April 2020, 10am - 12pm

**Cassiobury Park** - Donations £3pp members, £5pp non-members

Explore Cassiobury Park with an expert guide from the Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust.  
Book essential online [hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/events/2020-04-18-signs-spring-cassiobury-park](http://hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/events/2020-04-18-signs-spring-cassiobury-park)

**Record Store Day**

Saturday 18 April 2020

**LP Café / town centre**

A celebration of independent record stores and all things music. Loads of bands performing at different venues in the town throughout the day.  
[thelpcafe.com/record-store-day-2020](http://thelpcafe.com/record-store-day-2020)



**Bella's Barmy Book Club**

23 - 25 April 2020, 8pm

**Watford Pump House Theatre** - Tickets £10

A delightful comedy. Book-lover Bella is hosting the first night of her Barmy Book club in a Vintage Theatre but she is not expecting the Theatre's resident ghost!

[ticketsource.co.uk/radletttheatrecompany/](http://ticketsource.co.uk/radletttheatrecompany/)  
0333 6663366

**Watford Philharmonic Society:**

**Handel's The Messiah**

Saturday 25 April 2020, 7.30pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets from £7.50

Emily Rowley-Jones, Helen Stanley, Nick Allen, Geoff Williams and special guest Tristan Fry join conductor Michael Cayton and the choir and orchestra for this concert of Handel's greatest masterpiece!  
[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

**Far From The Madding Crowd**

28 April - 2 May 2020, 7.30pm

**Watford Pump House Theatre** - Tickets from £13

A vibrant insight into life in Dorchester and Thomas Hardy's England. A epic tale of love, tragedy, desire and regret.

[ticketsource.co.uk/maddingcrowd2020/](http://ticketsource.co.uk/maddingcrowd2020/)  
0333 666 3366

**BIG DANCE**  
SATURDAY 30 MAY



**Mike Leigh's Abigail's Party**

29 April - 23 May 2020

**Watford Palace Theatre** - Tickets from £17

Mike Leigh's painfully funny tragic-comedy of marriage and class at a 1970s suburban drinks party.  
[watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk](http://watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk) / 01923 225671

**BIG BANDSTAND**  
JUNE TO SEPTEMBER



**VE Day celebrations**

Sunday 10 May 2020, 1 - 4pm

**Cassiobury Park Bandstand**

Join in the VE celebrations with FREE music and dancing at Cassiobury Park Bandstand.  
[watfordbigevents.co.uk](http://watfordbigevents.co.uk)

**Jazz Gala Concert featuring Emma Smith**

15 May 2020, 7pm

**Watford Pump House Theatre** - Tickets £20

This one-off gala concert is an opportunity to hear both the talent of tomorrow and share in the acclaimed vocal gifts of Emma Smith with a rare local performance.  
[jazzwatfordlive@gmail.com](mailto:jazzwatfordlive@gmail.com)

**We Happy Few**

20 - 23 May 2020, 7.45pm (Saturday matinee, 2.45pm)

**Watford Pump House Theatre** - Tickets £13

Comedy-drama about an all-female theatre company who tour Britain during World War 2. The show commemorates the 75th Anniversary of VE Day  
[ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk) / 07917 324179



Abigail's Party

**An Audience with Harry Redknapp**

Thursday 30 April 2020, 7.30pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets from £39.50

I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here 2018 winner and famous football manager Harry Redknapp will be telling stories from his football days and time in the jungle.

[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

**MAY**

**James Bond Spectacular Concert**

Friday 1 May 2020, 7.30pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets £26

This is the world's #1 James Bond concert, by internationally acclaimed Q The Music Show, featuring Bond girl Madeline Smith from Live and Let Die as compere.  
[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

**David Baddiel: Trolls Not The Dolls**

Saturday 2 May 2020, 7.30pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets £31.50

David has stories to tell, of the dark, terrible and hysterically absurd cyber-paths that interacting with trolls has led him down.

[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

**The Wind in the Willows**

5 - 9 May 2020, 7.30pm (Saturday matinees, 11am & 3pm)

**Watford Pump House Theatre** - Tickets £12

Join Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad as they journey through the seasons, whilst trying to stop the Weasels getting their hands on Toad Hall.

Box Office: 07702 965851

**Tim Vine is Plastic Elvis**

Thursday 7 May 2020, 7.30pm

**Watford Colosseum** - Tickets £29.50

Feel the electricity as Plastic Elvis hits the stage backed by his incredible five piece *High Noon Band*.  
[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk) / 01923 571102

**IMAGINE WATFORD**  
26 - 28 JUNE



[WATFORDBIGEVENTS.CO.UK](http://WATFORDBIGEVENTS.CO.UK)

# Healthy hub

Watford



## Have you visited your local Healthy Hub?

Free information, advice and support to help you stay healthy and well



[www.healthyhubs.org/watford](http://www.healthyhubs.org/watford)



**Find us at:**  
Healthy Hub Watford, Town Hall, Watford, WD17 3EX

**Contact us:**  
[customerservices@watford.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@watford.gov.uk)  
01923 226400





# How your council lines up



In Watford we have an Elected Mayor, Peter Taylor, who was elected for a four-year term on 3 May 2018. You can contact the Mayor if you wish to raise an issue with him directly.

Watford Borough is divided into 12 wards. Each ward has three councillors whom you elect to represent you for a four-year term. Councillors can be contacted on the phone numbers shown or by email and are there for you to discuss any issues or concerns you have about your neighbourhood or the town.

**Peter Taylor**  
 Liberal Democrats  
 01923 278371  
[themayor@watford.gov.uk](mailto:themayor@watford.gov.uk)

## Callowland

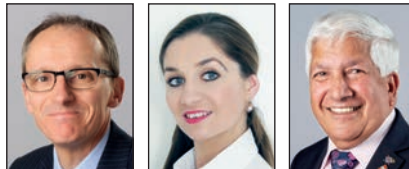


**Sohail Bashir** (Lab)  
 07769 355750  
[sohail.bashir@watford.gov.uk](mailto:sohail.bashir@watford.gov.uk)

**Ian Stotesbury** (LD)  
 07999 938202  
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## Central



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**Rabi Martins** (LD)  
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## Holywell



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## Leggatts



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**Asif Khan** (Lab)  
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## Meriden

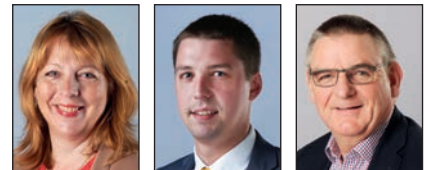


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## Nascot



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## Oxhey



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## Park



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**Jessica Stiff** (LD)  
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## Stanborough



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**Tim Williams** (LD)  
 01923 663436  
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## Tudor

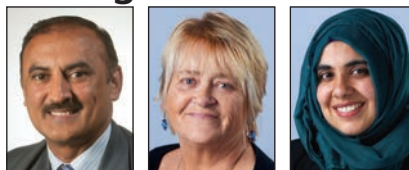


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## Vicarage



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## Woodside



**Richard Wenham** (LD)  
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**Glen Saffery** (LD)  
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**Karen Collett** (LD)  
 01923 661616  
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(Lab) = Labour (LD) = Liberal Democrats



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