

HILLINGDON people

News from your council

www.hillingdon.gov.uk

July/August 2025



Summer fun for all the family

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HILLINGDON
LONDON

August Bank Holiday 2025

WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

To minimise disruption to waste and recycling collections over the August Bank Holiday, we will be working on Saturday 30 August.

Please leave your waste and recycling out by 6am on the day of collection by your front gate but not on the pavement.

Separate arrangements are in place for flats and business premises.

| Normal collection day | Revised collection day |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Monday 25 August (Bank Holiday) | Tuesday 26 August |
| Tuesday 26 August | Wednesday 27 August |
| Wednesday 27 August | Thursday 28 August |
| Thursday 28 August | Friday 29 August |
| Friday 29 August | Saturday 30 August |





www.hillingdon.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling

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We've aligned stories in this magazine to our Council Strategy to keep you updated on our progress. Below is a key to explain the graphics.



Stay connected

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Welcome



The government's spending review has confirmed my fears that times will get even tougher for council services. However, exactly how much tougher it will be for councils in London won't become clear until later this year, when individual funding allocations are announced.

What is clear is that government funding assumes the average Band D council tax will increase by 4.99 per cent per annum in each of the next three years, which for residents, means an increase of £229.97 per annum on the council's share of the tax. This does not include any increase in the Mayor of London's precept, which has been rising by an average of 8 per cent annually for the last three years.

The Chancellor has announced plans to save £1 billion by reducing the use of hotels for housing asylum seekers but has not provided details. The risk is that legally, responsibility will then fall to local councils. In Hillingdon, this would be unsustainable, as we are already unfairly paying £5 million annually to support individuals evicted from hotels by the Home Office.

To manage the ongoing financial pressures, the council must become leaner and we are reshaping the way we deliver some services.

This month, we have introduced a new fee-based model for garden waste collection which will offer better value compared to our neighbouring boroughs and ensures the service remains financially sustainable for the future. Read more on page 9.

Last month, we made the difficult decision to cease retail activities at the council's Rural Activities Garden Centre (RAGC) on West Drayton Road as the subsidy of a loss-making commercial operation cannot fall on Hillingdon residents. I want to strongly reiterate that the council is fully committed to supporting our statutory care users. They will continue to receive tailored support bringing even better opportunities to meet their needs. We will continue to engage with the RAGC's volunteers before a final decision on the future of the site is made.

In other news, during May, the Battle of Britain Bunker hosted three days of Victory in Europe (VE) Day commemorations, June also saw the return of the Mayor's Picnic in the Park and our first crime writing festival. The events don't end there – we have an array of summer activities for the whole family – see page 16.

Cllr Ian Edwards, Leader of the Council

On the cover: Mum and toddler enjoy themed activities at the bunker as part of the 80th anniversary of VE Day celebrations.

Advertising deadline for next edition:
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For a copy in large print or as an audio version call 01895 556903

Spend your summer performing in Hillingdon!

Each workshop week features a different selection of West End and Broadway musicals

dk productions & Hillingdon Council present

The STAGE IS YOURS 2025

Work with an experienced Director, Choreographer & Musical Director, to rehearse songs, drama scenes and dance routines from hit West End and Broadway musicals for two performances in our 158 seater theatre on the Friday at 1.30pm & 3pm.

5 DAY WORKSHOPS
Ages 7 - 16 yrs

Monday 28 July - Friday 1 August 2025
Monday 18 - Friday 22 August 2025
10am - 4pm daily

£130 per 5 day workshop
Tickets to the final performance £7

2 DAY WORKSHOPS
Ages 4 - 6 yrs

Thursday 31 & Friday 1 August 2025
Thursday 21 & Friday 22 August 2025
10am - 4pm daily

£60 per 2 day workshop
Tickets to the final performance £7



01895 250615
discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/theatres
Compass Theatre, Glebe Avenue, Ickenham UB10 8PD




Play your part in local democracy

The council is inviting applications for the voluntary role of Independent Person – a key position that supports the council in maintaining high standards of conduct among elected Members.

It involves advising the council's Monitoring Officer on complaints made against councillors and any potential sanctions that may follow. You may also be consulted in relation to any proposed dismissal of senior statutory officers, including the Head of Paid Service, Section 151 Officer, and Monitoring Officer.

To be eligible, you must not have been an elected councillor, Co-opted Member or officer of the council in the past five years, and you must not be a close friend or relative of anyone who has. A strong commitment to public service values and an interest in local government are essential.

Although the role is voluntary, an allowance is paid for each meeting attended where your input is required.

If you'd like to be considered, please submit an expression of interest of 150 to 200 words, setting out your experience and suitability to the Head of Democratic Services, Lloyd White, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW or email lwhite@hillington.gov.uk.



Providing advice and support for residents

A new service to provide health and wellbeing support for residents has been commissioned by the council.

Hillingdon Advice Partnership, which launched in June, is led by Age UK Hillingdon, Harrow and Brent.

They will work in collaboration with Disability Advice and Support Hillingdon; Bell Farm Christian Centre, which delivers a range of support services; and Nucleus, which provides benefits, debt, employment, housing and consumer advice.

The council's Cabinet awarded the partnership a five-year contract at its meeting in March.

Cllr Jane Palmer, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, said: "This new initiative will strengthen our relationship with community and voluntary



organisations, and allow experts, in the heart of local communities, the time and resources to continue early intervention work where it is needed, to deliver the best results."

Find out

more: www.hillingdonadvicepartnership.org.uk or 020 8044 5676



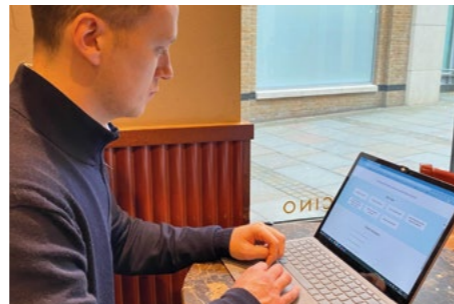
Sign up today for council tax e-billing

Residents are being encouraged to make the switch to receive their annual council tax bills online, which is a more convenient, eco-friendly way to manage your council tax account.

More than 25,000 households are already signed up. All you need to do is register online, and you will receive your bills directly to your email, allowing you to access them at your convenience from a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

When you register, you can create a profile to get instant access to your council tax account balance, view previous payments and past bills, so you no longer need to keep paper bills.

You can also set up direct debits for payments and view the annual council tax guide, which provides more information about how your money is spent and how much goes to other organisations.



Cllr Martin Goddard, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation, said: "Paperless billing is just one of the ways we are working more efficiently and digitally, while making it quicker and easier for residents to carry out transactions online, meeting climate change commitments by reducing the use of paper and delivering savings, through the reduction of print and postage costs."

Switch to e-billing:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax



Preventing crime and anti-social behaviour

In June, the council obtained five closure orders for tenants' properties in Cowley, Northwood Hills and Uxbridge following reports of serious anti-social behaviour (ASB) and criminal activity, including drug dealing, violence and knifepoint robberies.

The orders were granted by Uxbridge Magistrates' Court under Section 80 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 on Wednesday 18 June.

Four were issued for council flats within Packet Boat House, Cowley, and The Gouldings and Barnsfield Place, Uxbridge, following a police investigation which found the properties were linked to a significant organised drug supply operation.

The court also heard reports from the council and police about neighbouring residents experiencing incidents of violence, unknown people frequently entering the blocks, damage to communal areas and

door entry systems, and rough sleeping, which made them feel unsafe in their own homes.

The fifth order was granted for a council-owned property in Haydon Drive, Northwood Hills after the court reviewed statements from witnesses and the police describing frequent incidents of drug use, violence and theft from delivery drivers with the use of weapons.

The orders mean no one can enter the properties for three months, except for the landlord, police, other emergency services or utility providers. Anyone else who enters or stays on the premises without a reasonable excuse can be fined, imprisoned or both.

Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Community and Environment, said: "While the majority of our tenants live peacefully and respect their neighbours, these cases represent serious tenancy breaches.

"This is an excellent result for our housing and legal services,



highlighting our commitment to keeping residents safe."

Following the orders being granted, the council also issued notices to the tenants, under the Policing and Crime Act 2014, to regain full possession of the properties.

Report ASB concerns:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/safety



Hayes greening project delivers new trees and safer pathways

The second phase of a project to make North Hyde Road greener and increase sustainable travel was completed in May.

The improvements include a new 300-metre section of road towards its junction with Fairey Avenue, an upgraded shared use footway for easier cycling and walking, as well as 10 new trees.

The works, costing approximately £150,000, were funded through Transport for London's (TfL) local implementation plan and developer contributions and were the second phase of council improvements following an earlier phase on a different section of the road, which completed last summer.

The first phase included creating shared footpaths and tree planting, with £172,000 funding from TfL's Green and Healthy Streets programme.

A third and final phase of the project is set to be delivered before the end of the financial year. This will also include widening footpaths on both sides of the road along with planting more street trees which will take the improvements up to Old Station Road.

Cllr Steve Tuckwell, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Growth, said: "It's great to see the second part of these works completed which have improved options for active, sustainable, travel, while bringing some additional greenery to help improve air quality."



Upgraded pathway and new trees

Improvements to preserve historic Grade II listed gatehouse

A historic Uxbridge gatehouse building has been refurbished by the council to help prolong its life and preserve it as a heritage asset.

Hillingdon and Uxbridge Cemetery Gatehouse faces onto Hillingdon Hill, a short distance up from the junction with Kingston Lane. The Grade II listed building is passed by thousands of motorists each day who might easily miss this attractive 19th century brick and stone building.

The building marks the entrance to the cemetery and was previously the caretaker's house and graveyard office.

In recent years the condition of the building, which was built in the 1850s, had deteriorated badly. So, as part of efforts to preserve one of the borough's valuable heritage assets,

the council invested £500,000 into a refurbishment project to help protect the gatehouse.

The project included internal structural repairs, works to restore the roof structure and covering using reclaimed tiles, repairs to the stonework and the notable archway, as well as cleaning the external façade.

Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Property, said: "We're delighted to see the improvements carried out to this building with its eye-catching archway to help preserve it for future generations.

"We're committed to protecting our heritage and listed structures and hope the results of our work here mean more people



Cllr Bianco and Cllr Steve Tuckwell outside the restored gatehouse

will notice and appreciate this impressive structure and appreciate the historic value it holds."

Council calls on residents to help recycle more food waste

Residents who have not yet signed up to have their food waste collected through our free, weekly service are being encouraged to do so.

Recycling your leftovers is a great way to help the environment by minimising the overall waste your household produces.

Keeping your food waste separate from general waste (in the locked caddy provided by the council) also reduces the opportunities for animals to get into bags that have been placed out for collection.

While the weather is getting warmer, recycling food waste doesn't have to be smelly or messy, if you follow these simple tips:

- line your external food waste bin with newspaper or thick paper towels. This absorbs excess moisture and helps prevent food waste bags from breaking before collection day
- double-up on kitchen caddy liners to add extra strength



- avoid putting liquids in your food waste - it breaks down the biodegradable bags faster, leading to leaks
- during hot weather, keep your bin in a shaded area
- give your bin a quick wash: just add water, some washing-up liquid, close the lid, shake it well. Let it dry, and then add newspaper at the bottom.

Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Community and Environment, said: "It's a common misconception that recycling food waste is always smelly, so hopefully these tips will encourage more residents to get started, whether you're already a regular recycler, or you're considering joining the 57,500 households already signed up."

By signing up to the service, you will receive:

- a kitchen caddy to collect the food waste
- a roll of caddy liners (food waste bags) to insert into your caddy
- an external food storage bin to keep the full bags from your caddy until your food waste is collected.

Sign up for food waste collections:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/food-waste



Restaurant fined after allergic reaction causes hospitalisation

In April, Indian restaurant and takeaway, JR Uxbridge Ltd, trading as Javitri of 112 High Street, Uxbridge was ordered to pay £43,816 after a council investigation uncovered significant failings in its provision of information and control of allergens following a complaint from a customer who suffered a severe allergic reaction.

The business appeared at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court on 22 April and pleaded guilty to five offences in breach of health and food safety laws and was fined £35,000 and required to pay a victim surcharge of £5,000 and the council's prosecution costs of £3,816.

The court heard that in June 2024, the council's food hygiene and safety officers investigated the premises following a complaint from a customer with a nut



Uncovered allergen storage

allergy, who had a severe reaction to undeclared allergens in their meal, resulting in hospitalisation.

Officers found significant failures in the management of allergens, including nuts stored incorrectly, incomplete menu descriptions, and staff uncertainty about ingredients.

Although the council issued a detailed improvement report, a follow-up inspection in July revealed little progress. An improvement notice required updated allergen information

by August, but the restaurant provided an inaccurate allergen menu, putting customers at risk.

Despite multiple opportunities, the restaurant failed to submit accurate documentation.

Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Community and Environment, said: "Our food standards team works hard to protect residents from harm through routine inspections of businesses, providing guidance and education, serving improvement notices, and, ultimately, taking legal action against businesses that neglect their responsibilities."

Report a food safety problem:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/food-hygiene



New ANPR technology rolled out to tackle nuisance parking

In May, the council's Cabinet agreed to purchase a vehicle fitted with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) to clamp down on unauthorised parking.

The decision to use this new technology followed a successful trial in July 2024, which saw a vehicle deployed for 26 days in Heathrow Villages, Uxbridge and Northwood Hills to detect vehicles parking in the council's parking management schemes without the correct permits or exemptions, and resulted in 7,500 checks across 602 streets and 62 fines being issued.

The technology allows Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) to carry out more checks across a wider area in less time. The cameras, linked to the council's parking permit database, highlight potential contraventions to the CEOs, who follow up with a manual verification and check for

valid parking approvals, such as visitor permits and blue badges. Not all alerts result in a fine.

The vehicle will also support CEOs enforce the council's Public Spaces Protection Order to stop taxis and private hire vehicles waiting in residential streets near Heathrow Airport.

As a result of the effectiveness of the technology, and to create a more sustainable parking enforcement service by reducing fixed camera maintenance costs, Cabinet also agreed for some

fixed School Keep Clear (SKC) cameras to be decommissioned.

Instead, the ANPR car will monitor adherence and road safety at school sites, with SKC cameras maintained in the 10 locations with the highest offences recorded. Parking on SKC lines can result in an automatic fine.

Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Community and Environment, said: "We're committed to being more digitally enabled and reshaping services, and the ANPR trial clearly showed this technology is a more effective and efficient way of undertaking parking enforcement activity."



More on parking and permits:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/parking



Business fined £16,000 for severe food and hygiene failings

In May, fast food restaurant and takeaway Hutt Grill Ltd, trading as Hutt Grills, of 34 Cowley Mill Road, Uxbridge, was ordered to pay £16,491 after a council investigation discovered significant health risks to customers.

During a visit in March 2024, officers found dirty preparation areas, unclean equipment in disrepair, bins of day-old rubbish, and no shelf life and temperature controls for cooked/hot food.

They also discovered a broken fridge and the main freezer sounding an alarm displaying 30 degrees Celsius (48 degrees above the recommended temperature).

The council found the business posed a significant health risk, giving it a food hygiene rating of zero (urgent improvement required), and in April served the owners with three improvement notices requiring the business to implement changes, including



the training of food handlers and providing accurate food allergen information, by July.

During a follow-up visit, officers found food preparation and service underway, however the premises had no hot water or disinfectants to clean preparation areas and no soap at the staff wash basin.

Hutt Grills pleaded guilty to seven offences in breach of the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court on 13 May. The business was fined £8,000 and required to pay a victim surcharge of £2,000 and the council's prosecution costs of £6,491.20.

In mitigation, the business acknowledged the seriousness of the offences, expressed deep regret and apologised. Since the investigation, the restaurant has made improvements with it awarded a food hygiene rating of three (generally satisfactory) on 4 November 2024.

Find out more about food safety:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/food-hygiene



New Scout hut opens

2nd Ickenham Scout Group is celebrating after being handed the keys to their brand new, state-of-the-art headquarters by the council last month.

The council utilised part of £1.1 million HS2 amenity funding to design and build the facility which will serve the local Scout group for decades to come.

The group's previous hut, located on Community Close, had deteriorated over time to the point where it was beyond repair.

The new facility has a larger footprint and is designed to make better use of the internal space, which includes a spacious hall for the group's activities. The exterior has also been carefully designed to blend in with the local conservation area. The building is also fully accessible, with level access at both the front and side.



Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Cllr Eddie Lavery and Cllr Steve Tuckwell with Scout leaders Karen McManus, Alan Sheehan and Gavin Roberts

Gavin Roberts, from 2nd Ickenham Scouts, said: "We are very happy to be able to take possession of this new building following the council-led rebuild.

"Our old building was more than 70 years old and was

not suitable for our activities anymore, requiring substantial maintenance. The new building will allow us to concentrate on providing youth led Scout programmes in a purpose-built space for years to come."

Recycling your green garden waste

We've launched a new subscription-based garden waste collection service. Sign up now to have clippings and trimmings picked up from outside your home.

As a result of ongoing government funding shortfalls, including the additional £500,000 cost to the council generated by the government's National Insurance increase, coupled with the expectation that waste disposal costs are set to increase by £1.6 million in 2025/26, rising by a further £2.6 million per year to 2029/30, the council has made the difficult decision to introduce a charge for household garden waste collections to make the service more sustainable.



What does the new service include?

The service costs £70 for 2025/26 and includes:

- weekly household collections in spring, summer and autumn (fortnightly in winter when the amount we collect halves)
- 270 litre capacity (three 90-litre sacks) as standard
- three green council-branded tags to attach to the handles of your current sacks to show you're subscribed.

*Please note you can request up to an additional three sacks and three tags if required via the council's website.

Don't forget

- If you have subscribed and your tags haven't arrived by your first collection day, please write your door number on your sacks.
- You can also dispose of garden waste for free at Harefield Civic Amenity Site and the West Drayton Waste Weekends.
- Residents need to ensure that garden waste is not placed in black sacks. If garden waste is mixed with other waste in black

Why choose the service?

1. Recycling reduces the pollution caused by disposing of waste and allows products to be turned into compost (see right).
2. Have your grass clippings, hedge clippings, leaves, twigs, branches, dead flowers and weeds regularly collected from outside your home.
3. Continue to receive better value for money than neighbouring boroughs through:
 - a cheaper rate per collection
 - retention of weekly collections (except in winter)
 - greater capacity per collection.



Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Community and Environment,

said: "While we strive to protect residents as much as possible from financial burdens, it has been necessary to introduce this scheme.

"It continues to put residents first by delivering greater value for money in comparison to our neighbouring boroughs and ensures a more sustainable operating model for the future. Most London local authorities have been charging for garden waste collection for some time.

"Sign up for the service today, we'll send you your tags and your collections will begin."



Find out more:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/garden-waste



A green and sustainable borough

Reshaping services by building and strengthening partnerships

We're working with tenants and leaseholders to deliver improvements to our housing service, while increasing the supply of much-needed affordable homes.

As the largest landlord in the borough, managing more than 13,000 homes, the council is committed to making improvements to its housing stock (learn more about our housing improvement and decarbonisation programme on page 14) and the services it provides to better meet residents' needs and expectations.

During our first tenant and leaseholder conference in June last year, residents outlined they wanted regular, dedicated forums to ask questions directly to managers and help identify the most common problems which they experienced.

In response, the council created five Special Interest Groups, covering issues such as policies and procedures, caretaking and grounds maintenance, repairs

and planned works, managing anti-social behaviour, and tenant welfare.

The groups meet quarterly and provide tenants and leaseholders

Get involved

If you are interested in joining a Special Interest Group email customerengagement@hillington.gov.uk, call 01895 277038 or visit discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/special-interest-group to find out when the next session takes place.

with the opportunity to monitor the council's performance, address specific area-based issues and allow the council to present new ideas or proposed ways of working.

To receive regular updates about tenant and leaseholder engagement sessions, our home improvements programme and much more, sign up to our housing e-newsletter at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/enews.

CLlr Steve Tuckwell, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Growth, said:

"We are working hard to deliver a quality housing service which adapts to residents' changing needs. Enhancing our resident engagement is a key part of this, alongside the significant investment in our housing stock.

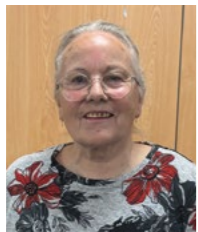
"Our residents come from all walks of life and their voices play an integral role in helping us quickly identify issues or make improvements to how we deliver services as a landlord."

Hear from some of the participants:

Marlene Blair, a council tenant from Hayes, said:

"Since joining the sessions, I have felt heard by the council and encouraged to share my honest opinions. We've had the opportunity to speak with managers to learn more about the services being delivered and as a group test new ways of working, such as booking repairs or using the council's website to find information.

"As a resident with a disability, I felt it was important to get involved and help to influence the way the council works to make improvements for everyone."



Bertilda Francois, a council tenant from Yeading, said:

"The sessions have really helped me to understand the complex procedures and services that are in



Shilpa and Hong Cheung, leaseholders from Northwood, said:

"It's great to see the council is listening more and wants to work in partnership with leaseholders and tenants.

"Rather than just complain about our experience as leaseholders, we



place. I feel empowered to share my views but also provide accurate feedback and information to my neighbours and community.

"I'd really encourage others to get involved, everyone's opinion and experience is different and can positively contribute to change."

felt we could make a difference to the lives of other residents.

"The sessions started with gathering feedback on our experiences of the different services and departments. It has now progressed towards monitoring the council's performance, for example how it has been handling complaints, tenancy management or incidents of anti-social behaviour."

Continuing to tackle Hillingdon's housing shortage

The council is also working hard to address the increase in demand for housing support, the rising costs of providing homelessness assistance, and the shortage of affordable homes available to residents.

Each week, the council receives an average of 100 new homeless applications, primarily due to evictions involving private landlords or friends and family.

Many of these could be prevented and it's important that residents at risk of homelessness seek support early and are aware of the common misconceptions about housing in the borough, for example, that support cannot be provided until someone is actually homeless. To access information and support, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/housing-advice.

When homelessness does happen or is likely to occur, if a household is eligible, and in priority need for assistance, the council may have a legal duty to provide temporary housing support until suitable alternative permanent accommodation is located.

However, there are currently more than 1,500 households in temporary accommodation in Hillingdon and the rise in demand across London has resulted in unprecedented costs for the council. The costs of providing homelessness assistance have increased by £14 million in the past two years.

The council has been acquiring new properties and repurposing surplus buildings to increase the amount of short-term housing



Recently acquired temporary accommodation in Uxbridge

that is readily available and reduce the reliance on costly hotel and bed and breakfast placements.

In May, it secured a long-term lease of 87 family-sized flats in Uxbridge. This followed agreements to lease 13 properties from Heathrow Airport and repurpose a council block of flats in Yiewsley to create additional temporary accommodation.

New affordable homes coming to life for residents

With more than 3,200 households on the council's housing register (a 14 per cent increase in the last three years) and 450 properties let on average each year, the council is also addressing the shortage of affordable homes by developing brownfield land and revitalising housing estates.

Construction on the first phase of the Hayes estates redevelopment, which will deliver 110 new homes, is making exciting progress.

The Avondale Drive site has recently had windows, solar panels and heating ventilation systems fitted, while the kitchens and bathrooms are now also being installed.

Meanwhile, the external brickwork is underway at the Hayes



Building works progress at the Hayes Town Centre site

Town Centre site and will soon progress to window installation and the internal fitout. Phase one of the work on both developments is set to complete later this year and residents who chose to stay on the estate will be some of the first to move into the new homes.

In April, the council also celebrated the start of construction on its Yiewsley redevelopment project, which will create 95 affordable homes for residents and

an enhanced modern library. The first phase of work on the former swimming pool site at Otterfield Road has seen the contractors preparing the ground to support the building's foundations, known as piling work. Construction of the second site on Falling Lane will begin in autumn.



One of the new kitchens at Avondale Drive



Safe and strong communities



Unlock your potential and grow with new courses

Our Learn Hillingdon Adult and Community Education classes for 2025/26 are now available – find a course to help you prepare for work or get promoted, gain a qualification, or learn new skills.

With the new academic year around the corner, Learn Hillingdon adult education centres are taking bookings for classes starting in September.

We offer hundreds of part-time day and evening courses for people aged over 19 which are delivered at our centres, in the community and virtually. Many are fully funded by the government.

Highlights include newly-added childcare courses. Gain a specialised qualification enabling you to support children with special educational needs and disabilities in early years settings or explore the early years nutrition for childcare professionals course.

Our new professional learning development courses are designed to increase your knowledge and understanding of autism, explore adverse childhood experiences when working with children,

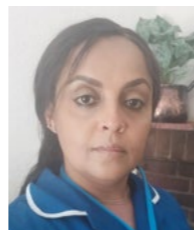
address challenging behaviour in the childcare, health or social care sectors, and gain insights into children and young people’s mental health.

The popular 10-week course to support you to become a registered childminder returns, alongside English, maths and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses to help you feel more confident using numbers and communicate more effectively.

If you’re passionate about helping others and making a real difference, health and social care courses can help you pursue a rewarding career. Or if you’re looking to begin a creative career, floristry qualifications will teach you a range of skills and techniques to help you get that job with classes to help you fit learning around existing commitments.

Meet Tsion: A journey of resilience and determination

Tsion Tadesse, from West Drayton, was determined to build a better future for herself and gained qualifications in health and social care with Learn Hillingdon.



She said: “My tutors were incredibly supportive, always encouraging and ready to help whenever I needed guidance.”

“The course helped me improve the quality of care I provide and work more effectively with others. Most importantly, I’ve developed greater confidence in myself and a clearer understanding of my role as a carer.”

Her message to others is: “It’s never too late to learn, grow, and follow your passion. If I can do it, so can you. Believe in yourself, take one step at a time, and trust that your journey is just as valuable and powerful as anyone else’s.”

Meet Jonathan: Building digital skills for a new career

Jonathan Rowlands, from Hayes, who’s been learning digital skills at Learn Hillingdon, worked as a HGV driver for more than 15 years. In early 2024, a serious illness in his spine left him unable to continue driving. After months of recovery, he knew he needed a career change and decided to learn how to use a computer.



A visit to Botwell Green Library introduced him to a range of local learning opportunities, and he enrolled on the free Using a Computer course at Learn Hillingdon. He said: “I found this course both enjoyable and very informative and it lets you learn at your own pace to ensure you have full understanding.”

Encouraged by his tutor, Jonathan also joined the Digital Skills for a Modern World course to further develop his knowledge.

After completing his current courses, Jonathan plans to take a computer qualification course to expand his skills and prepare for a new job.

Meet Lishaniya: The value of gaining experience

Before starting a Supporting Teaching and Learning course, **Lishaniya Pradeep Kumar**, struggled with low confidence and felt uncertain about her ability to work as a teaching assistant.



During the course, she had the opportunity to volunteer in a school and said: “This hands-on experience was incredibly valuable and gave me a real insight into how teaching assistants support pupils in the classroom.”

“My tutors believed in me, even when I was struggling, and helped me believe in myself too. The course has improved my communication skills, boosted my self-esteem, and given me the practical knowledge and confidence I need to work in a school. Most importantly, it’s helped me discover who I am and what I’m truly capable of.”

“It’s more than just a qualification; it’s a journey of personal growth. It’ll help you build your confidence, develop new skills, and take meaningful steps towards a rewarding career.”

Courses for adults with additional needs

The council also offers around 70 courses for Adults with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, with experienced staff on hand to provide a nurturing and supportive environment.

The classes are designed to help students become as independent as possible so they can prepare for work and the future, learn new skills, stay healthy, and there are also creative activities available. New courses for this academic year include understanding intimacy and relationships, photography and enterprise.

Find out more at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/aldd-courses and contact the team for a consultation meeting if you have not studied with us before.



Cllr Susan O’Brien, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education

said: “The new academic year is the perfect time to start your learning journey with us. Each year we help thousands of residents return to employment, get into work or advance their careers.”

“Adult learning can create possibilities for personal growth, enrich lives and helps many adults live more independently, and Learn Hillingdon is a vital part of the support we provide.”

Learn Hillingdon 2024/25 in numbers



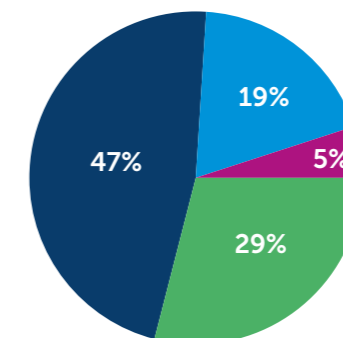
Total enrolments: **5,875**

98% of learners were Hillingdon residents



97% of enrolments were fully funded by the government

Enrolments by age:



- 19 to 24 years
- 25 to 34 years
- 35 to 49 years
- 50 plus years

Explore courses and enrol: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/adultlearning



+ Thriving, healthy households



Protecting the environment

Work continues to deliver projects aligned with the council's climate action plan, with workstreams underway to reduce the carbon footprint of buildings, mitigate future flood risks, and expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

More than 250 homes are earmarked for improvements this year as part of a £6.8 million programme to decarbonise the council's housing stock.

The ambition is to maximise the energy efficiency of its housing and corporate buildings during the next five years.

Homes with the lowest Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings are being targeted first, with the aim of bringing all those at EPC levels D and below up to at least level C.

Last financial year, 150 homes received improvements with at least 250 more identified for upgrades this financial year. Work may include all, or some, of the following:

- new cavity wall insulation
- new external wall insulation (solid wall properties)
- replacement high performance double-glazed windows

- loft insulation to 300mm with insulated loft hatches
- new ventilation fan units with heat recovery
- removal of concrete canopies and replacement with reinforced glass fibre units.

These measures will not only improve energy efficiency and reduce energy bills but also help mitigate against the risk of damp and mould.

A concurrent programme to replace ageing boilers is also underway and is contributing to reducing the carbon footprint of council-owned properties. To date, 4,500 of a planned 8,620 have been swapped for high-efficiency boilers that reduce both energy consumption and costs and are around 18 per cent more efficient. The target is for a further 1,000 boilers to be replaced this year.

Fifteen boiler plant renewals have also taken place across the council's sheltered housing

facilities, other council housing and corporate buildings.

More than 1,800 windows are also being replaced during the next three years, with high-efficiency PVCu double glazing which helps retain warmth in colder weather.

The replacement of doors and windows at Barr Lodge and Bond Close, West Drayton, is nearing completion. Once finished, 47 homes in this sheltered housing complex will benefit from improved thermal and sound insulation, and better comfort for residents like **Tina Smith**, 76, who has lived at Barr Lodge for 11 years and was delighted with her new windows.

Tina (pictured above) said: "The installation all went fine, and the contractors were lovely. The new windows are a big improvement on what we had before. I think a lot of old people get very cold, so this will be a big improvement for them."

Learning from last year's floods

Later this summer, the council will publish a detailed report following its investigation into last September's floods.

It is estimated that during 22 and 23 September, more than a month's worth of rain fell across Hillingdon, instigating 172 flood reports to the council. Of these, 123 related to internal flooding to properties and a further 49 to external flooding.

The principal cause related to the rivers, particularly the western arm of Yeading Brook, which receive water runoff from roads and properties. These rivers became too full to accommodate more water, meaning drainage systems could no longer take water away. These drains backed up and ultimately caused water to flood urban areas.

The investigation has revealed a number of exacerbating factors, such as increased hardstanding in properties as well as an ageing drainage infrastructure.

The effects of climate change mean such extreme weather events will become more common and there needs to be a change in how excess water is accommodated through the council working in partnership with Thames Water, the Environment Agency and local communities.

The results of the investigation will enable us to better understand the causes of

flooding and help recommend actions to minimise the consequences in future.

The council has already secured funding to investigate and deliver new flood alleviation projects, as well as supporting the creation of community flood action groups to enable residents to work together in becoming more flood resilient.

Find out more about floods at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/flooding.



Council officers checking on Ruislip Gardens residents' welfare last September

Partnership to procure new on-street charging points

In early June, the council agreed to join a partnership of London boroughs for the collaborative procurement of new electric vehicle (EV) charging points.

The council will join with Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey and Harrow to apply for grant funding from the Department of Transport's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) programme for the supply and installation of 1,673 new EV charging points across the borough.

The group will apply for £7.5 million government funding to jointly secure a high-value contract for the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of charging points on the public highway in each borough.

The partnership is expected to appoint an operator in early 2026, with types of chargers and suitable locations to be finalised by the council afterwards and, if applicable, consulted upon through public consultation.



EV charging points at Highgrove Pool and Fitness Centre, Ruislip

Cllr Steve Tuckwell, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Growth, said:

"The growth of our EV charging network is brilliant news for residents and ensures we meet future demand as it grows.

"It will help encourage and facilitate those who have been considering making the switch to a more sustainable form of transport by creating more accessible on-street infrastructure, particularly for those who don't have a driveway.

"By making it easy to charge your EV, we remove the main barrier stopping motorists from making the switch, so this is a really important step forward in our ambition to become one of London's greenest boroughs."



A green and sustainable borough

Fun activities for all the family

It's already been a fun-filled spring and summer across Hillingdon, with council-led events bringing the community together – and there's still plenty more to enjoy.

This year marked the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, and to commemorate, the council organised a range of activities honouring local heritage and history.



A major highlight was a three-day celebration at the Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre in Uxbridge from 3 to 5 May. Visitors enjoyed 1940s-themed tours, vintage games, interactive displays, and a climbing wall (pictured above). Live performances included a tea dance with music from Easy Street Big Band, singer Naomi Cook, and the Beck Community Choir, creating a nostalgic atmosphere.

Guest speakers shared wartime stories, and a traditional street party outside the centre featured music, food stalls, and 1940s dress-up.

Among the special guests was 97-year-old **Hillingdon resident Albert Edlin**, who shared vivid memories of his wartime childhood spent on a farm in Chalfont St Giles.

"My memories of the war are mainly about the aircraft and the bombing," he recalled. "I remember standing on a hill and seeing 40 German bombers flying



Albert Edlin lays a wreath in remembrance

low in formation after bombing Luton – that really stood out.

"I went to school part-time because we shared classrooms with evacuees. I remember digging up allotments and one day, three Spitfires attacked a German bomber near us. Our teacher shouted, 'Run for the shelter!'"

Albert also remembered the haunting sight of Lancaster bombers overhead at dusk. "The whole sky was one mass of planes, all making a tremendous noise as they carried their heavy loads. Then we'd hear them return after their missions. Three bombs even dropped near our farm.

"I remember the Home Guard and the Americans too – they came around the farm in jeeps delivering petrol as they prepared for D-Day."

The borough is also celebrating 60 years since its formation with a packed Diamond Jubilee programme. Events so far have included storytime sessions in libraries, LEGO building for children, and a travelling heritage roadshow collecting residents' memories.

On 7 June, families came together at Cowley Recreation Ground in Hayes for the Mayor's Picnic in the Park. While the weather brought a few showers, spirits remained high as residents enjoyed a free afternoon of live music, dance, and family fun.

The main event sponsor was Heathrow Airport. **Becky Coffin, Heathrow's Communities and Sustainability Director**, said: "We were delighted to join our neighbours for such a great celebration.



Guests having fun at the Mayor's Picnic



"We are proud to call Hillingdon our home and it was wonderful to see so many of our colleagues out enjoying the event."

The event featured performances from Bishopshalt School steel pans, Hillingdon Musical Society, The Candy Girls, and more. Younger visitors enjoyed Punch and Judy shows, sports, crafts, inflatables, and face painting (thanks to sponsor Greylane).

The inaugural Hillingdon Libraries Crime Festival took place on 21 June at the Winston Churchill Theatre in Ruislip.

The sold-out event brought together 200 avid readers and fans of the crime genre to meet

and interact with acclaimed authors, such as Mark Billingham, Fiona Cummins, Elly Griffiths, and Rev. Richard Coles.



Mark Billingham and Fiona Cummins

What's coming up this summer

Crime author talks

In July and August, Manor Farm library in Ruislip will be hosting in conversation talks with authors Charlotte Vassell, Tom Mead, Mark Ellis and Kia Abdullah. Find out more at discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/author-events.



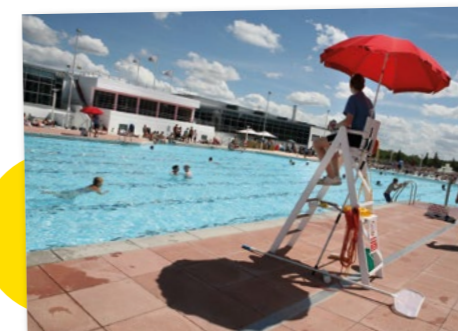
Look out for special events too, including:

- **Justin Coe's poetry performance** – 29 July at Botwell Green Library
- **SEED interactive dance show** – 5 August at Ruislip Manor and Botwell Green libraries
- **Forest School sessions** – at local children's centres (limited places, book early)
- **Imagination Station** – 14 August, from 10am to 3pm, Great Barn, Ruislip: Family fun day with crafts, characters, fitness challenges and more.

Find out more and book at discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/summer-reading.

Make a splash and keep active

Dive into family-friendly fun at your local Better swimming pool with Swim For All sessions and Fun Family Swims. Or head outdoors for a refreshing dip in



the 50-metre lido at Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex. Find out more at better.org.uk/hillingdon.

Soft play adventures for under-10s

Botwell Green Sports and Leisure Centre offers a four-floor soft play area, plus a separate zone for under-threes and an on-site café. Find out more at better.org.uk/botwell-play.



Get moving in Hillingdon's great outdoors

Make the most of Hillingdon's green spaces this summer with a range of free and low-cost ways to stay active and enjoy the fresh air.

Serve up summer tennis

With Wimbledon fever in full swing, now's the time to hit the courts. Book at one of Hillingdon's 10 tennis sites at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/tennis.

Illustrations by Dapo Adeola and © The Reading Agency 2025

Summer Reading Challenge returns

Produced by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with the borough's libraries, this year's Summer Reading Challenge takes place between 5 July and 13 September and aims to inspire young people to read for fun during the summer holidays.

The 'story garden' theme has inspired a reading list which includes authors, such as renowned naturalists, Chris Packham and Hamza Yassin, as well as books all about mini beasts, wildlife, forests and even dragons.

Join free, hour-long community tennis sessions at Harmondsworth Recreation Ground, Northwood Recreation Ground, and Rosedale Park. Booking required at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/tennis-programmes.

Try a free outdoor fitness class

From boxercise to circuit training, free Our Parks sessions are held in selected parks across the borough. Details at ourparks.org.uk.



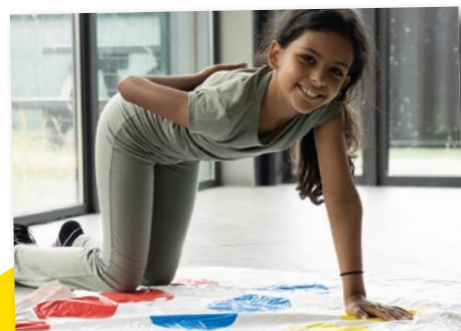
Hayes Canal Festival

This year's Hayes Canal Festival takes place on 13 July, from 11am to 4pm. There will be activities for people of all ages, including boat trips, arts and crafts, stalls and live entertainment.

Activities for young people

Make the most of the summer holidays with an exciting range of fun and engaging activities for children and young people as part of the Hillingdon Youth offer. From sports and cooking to arts, crafts and music – there's something for everyone.

Activities are available for children aged eight to 18, with additional support programmes for young people up to 24 years



old. These include year-round mentoring, counselling, and self-esteem building sessions. Find out more at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/youth-offer.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

Running from 23 July to 29 August, the council's HAF programme is open to school-aged children who receive benefits-related free school meals. With more than 19,000 places available at over 50 locations, activities include football, Taekwondo, canoeing, musical theatre, coding, and more – including SEND-specific sessions. Learn more at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/HAF-programme.

Step into history at Cranford Park

Discover archaeology, crafts, family days, and hidden gardens at this historic park.

Highlights include:

- **Parkaeology Talk** – 19 July, from midday to 4pm: Explore the park's past through archaeology and community stories. For children aged 11 and over. To book, email cranford@hillingdon.gov.uk.
- **Family Day** – 27 July, from 11am to 4pm: It's time to step back in time! Enjoy the sights and sounds of a medieval tournament, games, reenactments, stalls and lots of family outdoor fun.
- **Cranford Crafts** – 5 August, from 11am to 2pm: Get hands-on with Viking knitting, clay making and more. To book, email cranford@hillingdon.gov.uk.
- **Stables and Secret Garden Open Day** – 10 August, from 10am to 2pm: Visit the beautifully restored 18th-century stables and hidden garden. Free entry.

Find out more at discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/cranford-park.



Playday 2025

Hillingdon's much-loved Playday is back on 6 August, from 10am to 2pm, at Hillingdon Athletics Stadium. This free event celebrates the power of play with a varied schedule of fun for all ages.

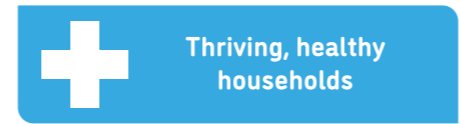
Join us for an action-packed day, with exciting activities including BMX, basketball, cricket, tennis and sandpit play. Get creative with arts and crafts, explore health and wellbeing stalls, learn about recycling, and lots more. Booking is required. Find out more at discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/playday.

Summer at the bunker

The Battle of Britain Exhibition and Visitor Centre in Uxbridge has a full line-up of events, including:

- **Secrets Uncovered** – 26 July and 30 August, 10am: Discover hidden rooms and stories in this exclusive behind the scenes tour of the bunker. (£15, under-16s free).
- **Polish Air Force Day** – 6 August, 10am to 4.30pm: Celebrate the vital role of the Polish Air Force in World War II with talks, cultural displays, exhibitions, food stalls and merchandise. Talks cost £5 each; all other activities are included with standard admission (food and tours charged separately).

For more information and to book, visit battleofbritainbunker.co.uk.



Helping local people living with dementia

In May, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Hillingdon Dementia Action Alliance, which was founded to improve the lives of residents living with the condition and their carers.

The Alliance is a group of 35 organisations that offers support to those with dementia to help them stay socially connected and live full lives.

Meetings take place quarterly and the group continues to work to build a dementia-friendly Hillingdon by raising awareness, ensuring those with dementia, and their carers, are listened to and have access to the information and support they need.

It also provides training to develop dementia-friendly environments and reduce loneliness.

Key achievements

Members of the Alliance came together at the Beck Theatre on 21 May to celebrate what has been achieved during the past decade. This includes rolling

out an extensive free, weekly dementia programme featuring a range of activities.

A dementia pathway was created on the council's website to help explain the journey of someone living with dementia and to signpost to support.

Dementia awareness training has also been provided to more than 12,000 people across the borough, including professionals and residents.

The Alliance has secured accreditation for 10 venues in the borough under the Mayor of London's Dementia Friendly Venues Charter, an initiative to make the capital's arts and cultural venues more accessible for those affected by the condition, with many of Hillingdon's libraries and theatres included.



The Dementia Friends enjoy a fun quiz at Uxbridge Library

Cllr Jane Palmer, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care,

said: "The Dementia Action Alliance is an invaluable resource for our residents which has worked tirelessly during the past 10 years to support those living with the condition.

"It enables them to live healthy, active and independent lives by having access to activities, information and support when they need it."



Michael Geraghty, Forget Me Not FC; Sarah Durner from the council's public health team, and Sue Duke at the anniversary celebration

Join our activities

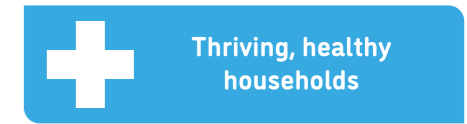
Currently, we provide social groups where residents can take part in chair exercises, bingo, art, music and more, as well as monthly daytime discos and dementia-friendly film screenings.

There are also art exhibitions, physical activity programmes, such as swimming, strength and balance sessions, boccia and walking football, and coffee mornings.

Sue, 78, from Hayes, said: "I personally believe that if I did not join the dementia activity groups I would not be here today. They gave me 10 more years to live and maybe a lot more in the future."

Madhuri Kotecha, Senior Dementia Support Worker with the Hillingdon Alzheimer's Society team, said: "Commitment from all partners has enabled people with dementia to access a huge range of support. This would not have been possible without the Alliance's efforts. The fact that it has been a decade since its birth is a testament to Hillingdon's commitment."

For more information or to join a meeting: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/dementia or email sdurner@hillingdon.gov.uk



Showcasing the performing arts

In December, the council announced that Parkwood Theatres would take on the running of the Beck Theatre in Hayes. *Hillingdon People* finds out what they're offering theatregoers and what's coming up at our other theatres.

Last year, the council worked with specialist consultants to identify a new operator for the Beck Theatre as its previous partnership with Trafalgar Theatres came to an end.

This resulted in the council securing a more financially sustainable model for the venue with terms agreed for a 15-year lease with Parkwood Theatres.

Parkwood was selected for their commitment to preserving the theatre's unique identity and enhancing community engagement and participation through diverse programming.

Part of Parkwood Leisure, which operates more than 80 leisure facilities across the UK, including heritage sites and leisure centres, Parkwood Theatres has worked with a range of local authorities to support regional theatres.

They aim to continue the Beck's tradition of offering a warm welcome and vibrant mix of shows – from plays and musicals to community events and fun family activities.

In their first months managing the facility, they have welcomed



A view of the Beck Theatre's stage from the packed auditorium

more than 5,500 people across 20 events, including shows from Sukh Ojla, The Fureys, Omid Djalili, and Anup Jalota, as well as hosting the UK Asian Film Festival in May and the Beck Youth Theatre's stellar production of *Made In Dagenham*.

The theatre seats 600 guests and has an impressive 20x19 metre stage and offers a range of refreshments, including hot and cold drinks and ice cream.

Beyond the stage, there are also additional hireable spaces, including a rehearsal room and green room, suitable for readings,

rehearsals, meetings or smaller events. The theatre foyer can also accommodate up to 200.

Parkwood Theatre's Managing Director, Tony Doherty, said:

"Our commitment is to make the arts accessible to all, while creating welcoming, high quality cultural spaces that reflect and serve the needs of the local area.

"We look forward to working in close partnership with the council to support and develop the theatre's role within the borough."

Parkwood is expanding their creative learning and community programme to make the arts more inclusive and accessible to all.

They are continuing the popular Summer Youth Project, a community initiative which has been running annually at the Beck since 1987, and gives 100 local young people aged nine to 19 the chance to take part in a professionally produced stage show helping them build skills, confidence and friendships.

This summer, the theatre is once again taking part in the council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, welcoming children receiving benefits-related



Young people from one of the theatre's past summer youth projects

free school meals to attend the Summer Youth Project for free.

The project is partly funded by ticket sales, so bookings for this year's production of *Bring It On* (21 to 23 August) will directly support the next generation of local performers.

Compass and Winston Churchill Theatres

The council also offers a wide programme of entertainment at the Winston Churchill Theatre in Ruislip and the Compass Theatre in Ickenham.

By making the venues available to community-based groups, the council supports grassroots arts and provides a platform for talented amateur performers, not just professionals.

The Winston Churchill Theatre is a versatile theatre space that lends itself to 'dry hires' for private performances, including end of term student concerts and local awards ceremonies.

In late May, the theatre was even hired by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, who rehearsed with pop star Kate Nash, ahead of her performance at The Mighty Hoopla music festival in Lambeth.

Peter Reynolds, General Manager of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, said:

"All went really well. The team were really lovely and helpful, the venue was great, and I'm sure we'll be back before long."

The range of events taking place this summer at the Winston Churchill include the Starlight Theatre Company's Youth Cabaret on 15 July, regular NHS blood

donor sessions and Hillingdon Music Society's summer project on 8 August.

Among the highlights coming to the Beck this year are shows from singer and actress Su Pollard, comedians Josh Widdicombe and Paul Chowdhry, plus Peppa Pig's Big Family Show and a full programme of family events for the summer holidays.



The Winston Churchill Theatre

The Compass Theatre offers comprehensive hires, with staff, ticketing, basic lighting and bar facilities available. Among the highlights this summer, will be *A Few Good Men*, the acclaimed military thriller by Aaron Sorkin, which runs from Thursday 17 to Saturday 19 July, with two shows on the Saturday.

Also returning for 2025 are the popular The Stage is Yours workshops. These include a five-day workshop for children aged seven to 16, which runs from 28 July and again from 18 August, and two-day workshops for younger children aged four to six, running from 31 July and again from 21 August.

The Winston Churchill Theatre has 346 seats, a refreshments bar, and is equipped with a basic lighting rig and PA system, while the Compass Theatre has a 158-seat auditorium packed with a full range of technical facilities.

Both venues are available to hire and have dressing rooms, and the Winston Churchill includes access to a car park and kitchen. To hire these spaces, email artsvenues@hillingdon.gov.uk.

What's on at the Beck: www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk/beck-theatre



If you're already thinking ahead to the Christmas pantomime, residents can enjoy two different professional productions of *Sleeping Beauty* this year: It will be running at the Compass, from Thursday 4 December and at the Beck, from Friday 12 December.

Explore what's on: discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/events



Thriving, healthy households

Play your part to tackle fly-tipping

Fly-tipping blights neighbourhoods, damages the environment, and can cause harm. Every resident can play their part by disposing of their waste correctly and providing information to help the council take firm action against fly-tippers.

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste, with no intention of having it cleared. It can be any size, from a single black bag to a truck load of rubbish.

The council is responsible for the enforcement and clearance of rubbish on council land, including roads, pavements, public car parks, green spaces and council housing estates.

If the rubbish is on private land, ultimately it is the landowner's responsibility to remove. However, the council can investigate and prosecute offenders.

Did you know you could be fined up to £1,000, or prosecuted, if your waste is fly-tipped, even if it's dumped by someone else?

Fly-tipping includes:

- dumping bag(s) of household waste next to a street bin
- leaving items outside a charity shop or donation bank (each charity accepts donations differently, check before you visit)
- putting items outside your property for a passerby to take away for free
- throwing old furniture out onto a street corner.

Services to help you dispose of your waste correctly

The council offers free, weekly waste and recycling collections (general waste, dry recycling and food waste) and a low-cost subscription-based garden waste collection service. For more information, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling.

Larger amounts of waste can be taken to Harefield Civic Amenity Site or the West Drayton Waste Weekends, with details available at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling-centres.

The council also offers a low-cost bulky waste collection service for bigger items. To find out more and book, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/bulkywaste.

Additionally, businesses can sign up to our trusted and efficient commercial waste and recycling service. To find out more, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/businesswaste.

The council also provides and maintains litter bins in public places and arranges for these to be emptied on a regular basis. Please note, during the summer months, these bins, especially in our parks and open spaces, can fill up quickly. If a bin is full, please take your litter home or use alternative street bins.

Report a full street bin via MyAccount at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/street-cleansing-issue.

It's your responsibility to check where your waste is going

Everyone has a legal duty to ensure waste is disposed of properly.

If you choose not to dispose of your waste through services offered by the council, it's important to remember you must use a registered waste carrier to avoid becoming a victim of a rogue collector.

Anyone offering to remove waste should show residents their waste transport licence. If they cannot provide one, then an offence may be committed if you allow the waste to be taken away and it's subsequently dumped illegally, which could also result in you being fined.

How we're taking action

One of the ways the council is tackling fly-tipping and rubbish accumulation is by organising enforcement days of action to address concerns raised by local communities.

Led by the council's anti-social behaviour team, they bring together officers from across the council and local partners, such as the police, to hotspot areas identified through local intelligence and reports.

The team was recently joined by officers from environmental enforcement and waste and recycling services, local police officers, and Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Community and Environment, on Wednesday 28 May at Coleridge Way and the nearby Belmore shopping parade in Hayes.

The team set out to collect evidence to identify culprits or establish any causes for the issues and quickly encountered bags of household waste piled up next to larger overflowing bins being



Fly-tipping in numbers

3,057 reports January to March 2025

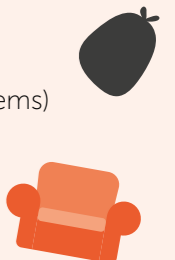


Where incidents have been reported:

- 1,233** on public footpaths
- 1,075** on council land
- 320** on highways
- 143** on private land
- 286** on other land

Waste type:

- 2,335** – household (including bulky waste items)
- 451** – construction and commercial
- 271** – other



- 401** visits to businesses and
- 87** duty of care reminders issued

Between March 2024 and March 2025, the council issued **131** fines for fly-tipping and **871** fines for littering

using by businesses. Following the visit, the team installed no dumping signs and sent waste warning letters to all households, outlining how to correctly dispose of their waste and the consequences for failing to.

Damaged bins were identified, leading to engagement with businesses to check waste documentation. Three businesses received warnings to clear rubbish,

two notices for broken bins were issued, and one order issued for the owner to secure their land against fly-tipping.

Such operations are part of the council's efforts to work with partners like the Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, and Transport for London, to combat anti-social behaviour and give residents a platform to raise concerns.



Cllr Lavery said: "There is no excuse for fly-tipping in our borough with plenty of convenient, free or low-cost options to dispose of rubbish.

"We share residents' frustrations that the actions of a minority of irresponsible people harms the environment and blights our neighbourhoods, and we'll continue to take action against those caught in the act.

"Please do help us to take action quickly by reporting incidents on our website with as much information as you can."

How to report fly-tipping

If you see a fly-tip, or have evidence, please report it online at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/flytipping.

This is the most effective and quickest way to ensure dumped waste is promptly investigated and collected.

When we receive a report, we:

- document and investigate the scene to determine the origin of the waste
- aim to remove it within 24 hours.

If we can identify the offender, a fixed penalty notice (fine) will be issued and, if necessary, more serious incidents will be referred to the local magistrates' court for prosecution.

- If found guilty, offenders can be:
- fined up to £50,000 in a magistrates' court
 - fined an unlimited amount in a crown court
 - given community service
 - sent to prison for up to five years.

Find out more and report it:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/flytipping



Safe and strong communities

Helping communities to thrive

Hillingdon People explores how the council has been working with partners and specialist suppliers to deliver support to businesses and residents to help them learn skills, secure opportunities and provide a boost to the local economy.

Through UK Shared Prosperity funding (UKSPF), the council has been investing £2.5 million into local communities by delivering successful business support and people and skills programmes.

Since launching in March 2024, the funding has supported:

- 108 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by preparing them to compete for large-scale procurement opportunities through a Supplier Readiness Programme
- 200 SMEs with tailored guidance to help them grow, invest, and expand
- more than 350 residents with skills training and employment support, helping many who were long-term unemployed secure jobs.

Unlocking growth

The GROWTH Hillingdon business support programme was delivered in partnership with Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce. It provided small businesses, entrepreneurs and start-ups with access to one-to-one support and industry knowledge through workshops and mentoring on a range of topics, such as how to deliver marketing strategies to reach new customers, improve efficiency and productivity, and recruit and build a team.

James Thomas, Director of FOG Creative (pictured right), said: "The mentoring was great, it really helped to build my confidence.

"The team spent time understanding my needs and tailored it so we could quickly focus on the aspects of the business where I lacked the necessary experience.

Finding new customers

The 'Supplier Ready' programme, delivered in partnership with Branduin Business Support, provided expert advice on how to secure new or bigger contracts.

A range of 'Meet the Buyer' events were held where large suppliers in the borough, such as Heathrow Airport, could outline the types of contracts they were seeking and best practices for securing them.

Rob Fletcher, Director of Heart Relocation Ltd (pictured second left), said: "The support gave us great insights on how to reshape how we were presenting our offer to companies when trying to secure new contracts. We were able to develop a unique story and consistent approach that made us stand out during the procurement process.



"We are now striving to become a bigger local employer, and the supplier readiness programme gave us the confidence to go for new deals that will help us to achieve this."

Heart Relocation went on to win 'Business of the Year' at the 2025 Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce Business Awards and doubled their annual turnover.

"The guidance helped me to create a marketing plan and explore new channels. Since being on the programme, I've tried to apply the learning to expand to a wider audience and build my network with other local businesses."



GROWTH in action

- ✓ 12 businesses increased turnover/profit or reduced overheads in 12 months after accessing support
- ✓ 31 businesses adopted new and improved products/services
- ✓ 6 jobs created
- ✓ 15 jobs safeguarded
- ✓ 2 opened new offices or locations
- ✓ 12 won big projects or new business
- ✓ 29 identified new channels to sell their products

Getting back to work

Alongside supporting businesses, the council has also been investing in residents to help them find secure employment.

Delivered by SEETEC, an employment and skills training specialist that works with unemployed adults, West London Alliance and our Learn Hillingdon adult education service, the programme helped participants develop their employability skills, overcome barriers to work, learn basic digital or English skills, and find jobs or training opportunities.

It resulted in 55 people successfully securing work, including 23 who also took part in English for Speakers of Other Languages courses.

Booming business expo

The council also utilised UKSPF funding to sponsor the 11th Hillingdon Business Expo at Brunel University on Wednesday 4 June.

Hosted by Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce, it's the borough's largest business event bringing together local business owners, entrepreneurs, investors, students and industry leaders for a day of networking, workshops, innovation and exploring new opportunities.

This year saw 130 exhibitors and more than 1,000 attendees.

Oyindamola Oguntowo, Chief Operations Officer of Honeymix Foodco, said: "As a new business, the expo was a fantastic opportunity for us to meet others



Cllr Tuckwell with the team from Honeymix Foodco

and share ideas about how we can reach more customers and suppliers for our products."

Pramod Morjaria, owner of Ascend Sports Massage (pictured right), said: "One strand of our work is partnering with businesses to enhance their employee wellbeing offer by providing seated massages to their staff in the workplace. Having hundreds of local businesses in one place presented a great opportunity for us to showcase our work in action, with live demonstrations, while starting to develop new relationships with potential clients."



Hear from Cllr Tuckwell and businesses exhibiting:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/business-programmes



Cllr Steve Tuckwell, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Growth, said:

"Hillingdon is home to a rich and diverse business community and it's our priority to ensure they have the right tools and environment to thrive. The borough was recently celebrated as home to the most new business start-ups in London.

"By utilising grant funding and partnering with specialist organisations, we have expanded our business support and skills offer, helping to equip businesses and residents with new skills, provide access to larger supply chains, create and protect jobs, and unlock opportunities.

"With the next round of UKSPF funding secured, we look forward to rolling out the support to even more applicants and demonstrating to London that Hillingdon is open for business."

Next steps

The council has secured £1.1 million in the next round of UKSPF funding for 2025/26 and will continue to deliver projects across three key themes.

It will support residents into work, support local businesses to grow, and make improvements to the public realm of our town centres, including Uxbridge and Hayes.



Find out more about UKSPF: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/UKSPF



Serving our communities and building new relationships

New Mayor, Cllr Philip Corthorne, shares his pride at being elected the borough's First Citizen and ceremonial head for the forthcoming year.

At the council's Annual General Meeting on 8 May, Cllr Philip Corthorne was formally elected new Mayor of Hillingdon.

Cllr Corthorne has been a Ruislip resident for most of the period since 1970 and was first elected as a councillor in 1993, representing West Ruislip and then Ruislip wards.

During his term as Mayor, Cllr Corthorne will undertake all civic ceremonial duties in the borough. This includes attendance at key events, including Remembrance Day services and greeting any members of the royal family. He will also chair meetings of Full Council.

Speaking of his appointment, he said: "It's a great honour to be the next Mayor of Hillingdon, and I will do my best to continue to build relationships in the community,

and meet individuals and residents who are making such positive contributions to our wonderful borough. I look forward to representing Hillingdon, and our communities, while carrying out my official duties."

During his year of office, Cllr Corthorne is keen to support volunteers, particularly young volunteers, in Hillingdon. He said: "There is so much goodwill and public spiritedness in our wonderful borough, and I'd like to harness that to benefit even more of our communities.

"I'm also keen to help businesses in the borough create even better connections and partnerships with one another, as I see this an opportunity to build on the excellent work already being done. I'm open to suggestions from local businesses



and other organisations and keen to hear their ideas."

Cllr Corthorne has chosen two charities to fundraise for during his mayoral year: SEND Family Support, which provides support to those caring for people with special educational needs and disabilities, and Hillingdon Stroke Support Group. Having suffered a stroke in 2017, Cllr Corthorne has personal experience of having to work to recover his speech – part of the work the group undertakes with stroke survivors.

The Mayor will be assisted in his duties by the new Mayoresses, his wife Fiona and daughter Hannah.

At May's Annual General Meeting, Cllr Reeta Chamdal was also appointed to the position of Deputy Mayor.



The Mayor with Elsa from Disney's *Frozen* and guests at June's Picnic in the Park

Find out more and donate: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/mayorcharity



News from our partners

An important update from the Metropolitan Police Service

As the new Safer Neighbourhoods Inspector for the southern wards of Hillingdon, I would like to introduce myself.

I have been an officer in the Metropolitan Police Service for 25 years, including two years serving in response policing within the borough, before moving to Neighbourhoods Policing in March.

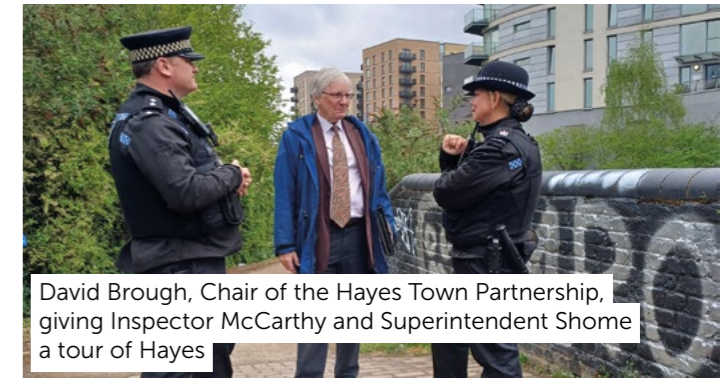
I look forward to building even closer relationships with our communities and addressing the issues that matter most to you. Here's an overview of our recent work.

Tackling vehicle crime

While we have seen an overall reduction in vehicle crime during the past 12 months, it remains essential to take precautions to avoid becoming a victim. Remove valuables, such as tools, designer sunglasses, and cash from your vehicle. To protect against high-tech and high-value vehicle theft, consider using physical deterrents like a steering wheel lock or bollards.

Improving community access and engagement

I am proud to introduce Met Engage, a new digital platform that



David Brough, Chair of the Hayes Town Partnership, giving Inspector McCarthy and Superintendent Shome a tour of Hayes

brings your local policing team closer to you. With just your postcode or street name, you will be able to find and connect directly with your local Safer Neighbourhood Team. The platform also offers updates on local policing activity and community events.

One of Met Engage's key features is the Local Matters Survey. This quick, anonymous survey gives you the opportunity to tell us about the issues that are important to you. To find out more, visit www.metengage.co.uk.

Inspector Dave McCarthy

Warm weather information from the London Fire Brigade (LFB)

It's a pleasure to take over the reins of Borough Commander from Paul Eastland and continue the LFB's commitment to keeping those who live, work and travel through Hillingdon safe.

Now we've entered the warmer months, a key part of our work is ensuring we're prepared for seasonal risks.

Grass and wildfires

Long periods of hot, dry weather means it only takes a spark to cause a wildfire.

What to do if you discover a wildfire

- Make sure you're in a safe place (away from vegetation and

smoke). Stay calm and call 999 immediately.

- If you're in your car, close all windows, doors and vents.
- When you call 999 be as precise as you can about the location, size and any other information. The free what3words app can help you pinpoint your location.

Preventing grass fires

Anything burning can start a grass fire. Cigarettes and barbecues are commonly to blame.

Barbecues can easily ignite dry grass.

- Never leave them unattended.
- Keep them level and

far from anything flammable.

- Don't barbecue on balconies or in parks and public spaces.
- If using disposables, cool completely before binning them.

Don't forget to dispose of cigarettes properly – don't flick them into grass or from car windows. Never leave glass bottles outside – they can magnify sunlight and spark fires.

Stay up to date on our latest advice by visiting www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/grass-and-wildfires.

Water safety

London's rivers and canals are high-risk zones, especially in summer.

Water safety tips

- Don't enter the water to help someone – call 999 and ask for LFB.
- If you fall in, 'Float to live' – stay calm, lie on your back, and catch your breath before trying to move or call for help.
- If someone else is in the water, call 999, and use life-saving equipment if nearby – lifebuoys, throwlines, or anything that floats.

Find out more at www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/water-safety.

Daniel Johnson
Borough Commander
Hillingdon

Discover Hillingdon

For further details and to book these events (which are either run by the council or take place at council-owned venues) plus many more, visit discover.hillingdon.gov.uk. Events marked * are FREE.



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July

- 14 **Twilight Yoga**
Battle of Britain Bunker
- 17 **A Few Good Men**
Until 19 July
Compass Theatre
- 19 **Heritage Roadshow***
Charville Library
- 19 **Speaker Series: Adam Hart on Operation Pimento**
Battle of Britain Bunker
- 21 **Senior Drop-in Youth Club**
Uxbridge Family Hub
- 21 **Tea Dance***
Christ Church
- 22 **Brick Story Builders***
Uxbridge Library
- 23 **Brush for Life and Bottle to Cup workshop***
Hayes Family Hub
- 23 **Football Project***
Skills Hub School
- 24 **Forest School***
Harefield Children's Centre

- 24 **Special Interest Group: Repairs, Planned Work and Maintenance***
Civic Centre
- 25 **Clay Modelling***
Uxbridge Library
- 25 **Men's Cancer Support Group***
Oak Farm Library
- 25 **Desi Dance***
Botwell Green Sports and Leisure Centre
- 25 **Junior Youth Club**
Harlington Young People's Centre
- 25 **Junior Youth Club**
Ruislip Young People's Centre
- 25 **Junior Youth Club**
Colham Manor Children's Centre
- 25 **Senior Youth Club**
Harlington Children's Centre
- 25 **Inter Youth Club**
Ruislip Young People's Centre
- 26 **Family Games and Puzzles***
Hayes End Library

- 28 **Games and activities***
Until 31 July
Woodland Centre
- 28 **Craft making sessions***
Until 31 July
Woodland Centre
- 29 **Coffee Morning***
Hayes End Library
- 30 **Willow Sculptures**
Manor Farm
- 30 **Forest School***
Yeading Children's Centre

August

- 1 **Games and activities in Ruislip Woods***
Also on 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 August.
Woodland Centre
- 1 **Craft making sessions***
Also on 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 August.
Woodland Centre
- 1 **Knit and Knatter***
Uxbridge Library
- 2 **Pride Hub Hillingdon***
Yiewsley Library
- 4 **Forest School***
Colham Manor Children's Centre
- 6 **Copper Workshop**
Manor Farm
- 7 **Nature Adventures Storytime***
Oak Farm Library
- 7 **Tea Dance***
Winston Churchill Theatre
- 8 **Community Creations: Rock Painting***
Uxbridge Library
- 12 **Dementia-friendly Daytime Disco***
Compass Theatre
- 13 **Willow Sculptures**
Eastcote House Gardens
- 14 **Recycling Roadshow***
The Great Barn

- 15 **Coffee and Crime with Tom Mead**
Manor Farm Library
- 16 **Family Games and Puzzles***
Hayes End Library
- 16 **Speaker Series: Jack Bowsher on Victory over Japan Day**
Battle of Britain Bunker
- 18 **Tea Dance***
Christ Church
- 22 **Heritage Roadshow ***
Botwell Green Library
- 22 **Breast and Gynae cancers workshop ***
Online event
- 26 **Heritage Roadshow ***
Harefield Library
- 29 **Desi Dance ***
Botwell Green Sports and Leisure Centre
- 29 **Crafty Hour***
Hayes End Library
- 29 **Men's Cancer Support Group***
Oak Farm Library

September

- 2 **Curtain Up!**
Compass Theatre
- 4 **Tea Dance***
Winston Churchill Theatre

- 6 **Speaker Series: Paul Beaver on RJ Mitchell – the Father of the Spitfire**
Battle of Britain Bunker
- 10 **Special Interest Group: ASB Neighbourhood Management***
Civic Centre
- 11 **Assembly for People with Disabilities and their Carers***
Civic Centre
- 17 **Special Interest Group: Compliments, Complaints and Learning***
Civic Centre
- 19 **Fostering information event***
Online
- 23 **Assembly for Older People***
Civic Centre
- 26 **Blood cancer workshop***
Online event
- 26 **Desi Dance***
Botwell Green Sports and Leisure Centre
- 27 **Pride Hub Hillingdon***
Ruislip Manor Library
- 27 **Wicked Sing Along Film**
Compass Theatre

October

- 5 **Esprit de Corps: Royal Air Force Squadronaires**
Winston Churchill Theatre



Esprit de Corps: Royal Air Force Squadronaires

Community events

Regular events

- **Taekwondo classes**
Mondays and Wednesdays, 5pm
Cost: £10 (first class free)
Suitable for ages five to adult.
Find out more: contact@southruislip.org.
Deane Park Hall, HA4 0HS
- **Junior sailing with Broadwater Sailing Club**
Saturdays July to September, 1.30pm to 4.30pm (except August)
Open to children aged seven to 16 who can swim 25m.
Cost: £35 per child and £55 shoreline membership for accompanying adults
Find out more and book: broadwatersc.org.uk.
Broadwater Lake, UB9 6PD
- **Aerobics class**
Wednesdays, 6.30pm
- **Kettlebell class**
Wednesdays, 7.45pm
Cost: £10 or £30 for four classes.
Find out more and book: gymcatch.com/app/provider/5976/events.
All Saints Church Hall, UB10 9PE

September

- 6 **Eastcote Horticultural Society Autumn Show***
2.30pm to 4pm
Find out more: www.succulent-plant.com/eastcote or email eastcotehorticultural@yahoo.co.uk
Oak Hall, HA4 9SQ
- 20 **Hillingdon Clean Energy and Nature Festival**
11am to 4pm
St Margaret's Church, UB8 1AB

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Call Pam 07887 648 300
Or info@justfriendsclub.org.uk

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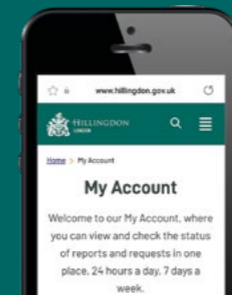
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- report fly-tipping or anti-social behaviour
- request recycling bags
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www.hillingdon.gov.uk/adultlearning

Benefits
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/benefits

Births, deaths and ceremonies
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/births-deaths-ceremonies

Businesses and licensing
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/business

Councillors, meetings and consultations
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/council

Council tax
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax

Families' Information Service, fostering and adoption
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/families

Fraud Hotline
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/report-fraud
0800 389 8313

Health and wellbeing
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/health

Housing Services
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/housing
01895 556666

Hillingdon Social Care Direct (adults) (including TeleCareLine and Meals Service)
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/socialcare
01895 556633

Leisure (including parks, leisure centres, theatres and events)
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/leisure

Libraries
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries

Planning and Building Control
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planning

School admissions
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Stronger Families Hub
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/stronger-families

Transport, roads and parking
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/transport

Mental health support

Hillingdon Mind
01895 271559

Samaritans
116 123 (freephone)

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News from our partners

Get more out of your NHS by accessing the app on the go

Whether you're new to the NHS App or you downloaded it and haven't used it for a while, here's a reminder of what it can do for you – helping you get well, stay well, and manage your healthcare.

The app provides a simple way to book appointments at your GP practice, order repeat prescriptions, and access health advice directly from your mobile phone or computer.

It's free and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so you can manage your health

needs at a time that suits you.

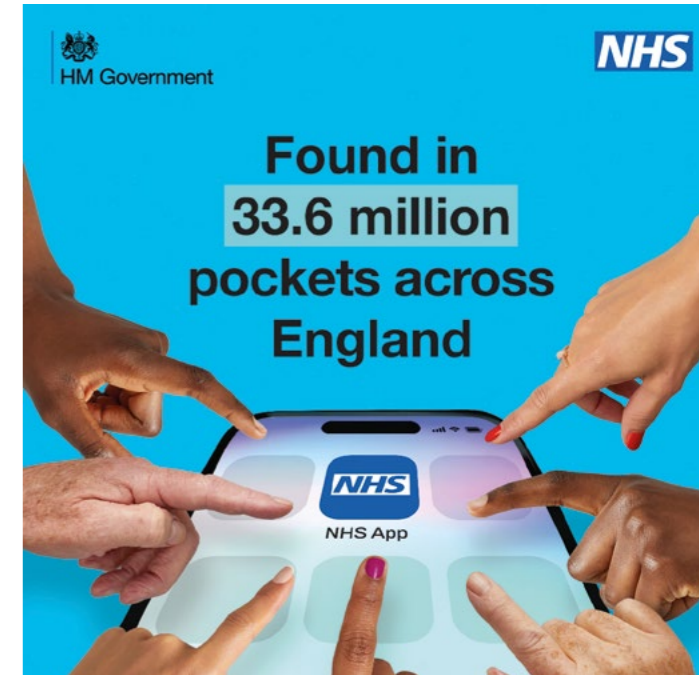
With the app, you can:

- order repeat prescriptions
- find NHS services
- view and access your GP health record
- get timely reminders and messages
- get health information and advice
- book and manage appointments.

You can download it from your app store or visit www.nhs.uk/nhs-app.

To use the app, you must be:

- *aged 13 or over



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*If you're aged 13 to 15, you'll need to contact

your GP surgery for access to GP online services before you can use the NHS App.

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