



Bracknell
Town Council

Bracknell MATTERS

July 2023



Photograph of The Elms by Justin Horton

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Welcome

Whether you are new to the area or a long time Bracknell resident, welcome to Bracknell Matters!

With elections recently taken place, 2023 is an exciting year for Bracknell Town Council. We are pleased to introduce our 28 Councillors across 13 wards. Each ward is featured overleaf and how to contact your local Councillor.

Now we are moving into the spring and summer months this is a perfect opportunity to visit one of our 36 parks and play areas, cool off in our splash pads or enjoy an ice cream at one of our pavilion shops. We recently acquired three new play areas; Barry Square, Deepfield Road and Beedon Drive. Our fantastic team have been busy refurbishing and installing new play equipment at selected sites including Helicopter Park (Home Farm), Crown Row and Hedgehog Park (Birch Hill). You can find a full list of our services and facilities inside.

This is also a great time to mention our upcoming events:

Summer of Fun 2nd August 2023 & 30th August 2023

These popular events are always a highlight for us, and we look forward to welcoming the community. Event details are overleaf.

We are pleased to add our first electric refuse lorry. Ian, part of our hardworking environmental team is known to the community and is seen often at our sites collecting recycling and refuse - now reducing our carbon emissions whilst doing so.

You can always catch up on the latest news and upcoming events by following Bracknell Town Council on Facebook or on the website where you can always find our most current Bracknell Matters and up to date information. If you would like to receive all of the online Bracknell Matters editions via email, please contact enquiries@bracknelltowncouncil.gov.uk

We cannot wait to welcome all of you at our events and parks over the next few months.

Best wishes,

Jackie Burgess

Bracknell Town Clerk

www.bracknelltowncouncil.gov.uk



Councillors page



Foreword from Bracknell Town Council Cllr Mary Temperton:



On 4th May 2023, Bracknell residents elected their Councillors to serve for the next four years. You voted for 28 Councillors and all of those elected are Labour – Thank you for putting your trust in us!

We are very privileged to serve on this Council that provides such excellent play areas and parks throughout our Town. We will continue to ensure the play areas are maintained to the highest standard, employing our own work force who take such pride in all they achieve.

We will consult and listen to young people and families to ensure we respond to your ideas and suggestions on ways to improve our facilities.

We will ensure the play areas satisfy all age groups, introducing more equipment for the older children, and higher seats for those of us of more advanced years.

We will provide Youth Workers allocated time at our recreation areas to organise sports, football, basketball, keep fit. This will be free to encourage young people to participate and enjoy.

We will put solar panels on the pavilion roofs and continue measures to reduce the Council's Carbon footprint. We will also increase the biodiversity of our areas and highlight the new species achieved.

Along with the above we will continue the FREE family fun days and continue to support South Hill Park Arts' Centre.

Every resident has a Labour Town Councillor to contact and inform.

Together we will make Bracknell even better.

Mary Temperton

Proud to be serving on this Council for the 40th year.



Our Councillors

Garth




Anna Keen
anna.keen@bracknell
towncouncil.gov.uk

Ellen Mac Hale
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Crown Wood




Elizabeth Baker
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Jodie Watts
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Birch Hill and North Lake




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Bullbrook





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Great Hollands South




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Old Bracknell




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Town Centre & the Parks





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Megan Wright
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Wildridings




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Helen Purnell
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New Mayor 2023-2024

Councillor Simon Carter has been elected as Bracknell Town Mayor for the year 2023/24 representing the parish of Bracknell Town. His chosen charity is Power of Parenting, which he endeavours to raise funds for during his mayoral year.

About Power of Parenting

Power of Parenting believes in equal opportunity for all children and recognises the invaluable work Foster Families do to enable children to have a normal life filled with warmth and kindness created in a safe, loving environment.

To advance the education prospects of young people who are looked after or in care. To advance the education of the public in matters regarding fostered children and the good work done by foster families to support children's needs and help them reach their potential.

www.powerofparenting.co.uk/home

Registered charity number 1167772



Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Mary Baker has been elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2023/24. The Deputy Town Mayor attends events when the Town Mayor is unavailable and should be treated just like the Town Mayor as they are there on the Town Mayor's behalf.

If you would like to invite the Town Mayor to a community event, please contact mayor@bracknelltowncouncil.gov.uk

Bracknell Town Mayor 2022-23

Councillor Dai Roberts was elected as Bracknell Town Mayor for the year 2022-23. He has attended a variety of events during his mayoral year, a total 100+ events. Some highlights for Mayor and Mayoress Roberts were attending the Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards, having the honour of laying a wreath at Bracknell Town Remembrance, Celebrating the Queens' Jubilee with residents and being in the heart of the Bracknell community at so many eventful engagements.

Cllr Dai Roberts' chosen charity during his mayoral year was Create Hope. Create Hope responds to environmental issues such as domestic abuse, family separation, bereavement, chaotic family life, addiction, low self-esteem and more, by delivering different creative and systemic-based therapy. They support the family's emotional needs, giving people a safe space to explore and express their feelings, explore relationships and challenge communications, process past hurts, develop self-awareness and empathy, and move towards the changes they need to make. Create Hope offers bursary-funded support, funded through donations and fundraisers, enabling them to reach the families who can't afford the private therapy sector.

Bracknell Town Mayor Dai said "he was delighted to have worked with Create Hope and to raise not only awareness of the charity but also £2,037. I would also like to thank the Easthampstead Crematorium for nominating my Mayors Charity "Create Hope" and the very generous donation of £12,000 which will go towards helping local families with bereavement and loss.



Sensory Garden

Bracknell Town Council have created a sensory garden at Mill Park which is designed to provide opportunities to stimulate the senses, in ways that visitors may not usually encounter. It is an accessible space for people to touch and smell the plants whilst also feeling the different textures of the pathway made of wooden decking, artificial grass, tactile paving and Scottish pebbles. Some of the plants include buddleia, stachys lamb's ear and rosemary.



Jocks Lane Railway Running Days 2023

Jocks Lane Park, RG12 2BH

Running Times: 13.00 to 16.00
(subject to weather and staff availability)

£1.00 per ride per person

MAY	29	B/H Monday
JUNE	11	Sunday
	25	Sunday
JULY	16	Sunday
	30	Sunday
AUGUST	13	Sunday
	28	B/H Monday
SEPTEMBER	10	Sunday
	24	Sunday
OCTOBER	8	Sunday

Splash Pads

Why not visit our accessible splash pads to cool down this summer?

Both Jocks Lane Recreation Ground and Great Hollands Recreation Ground have fantastic facilities, coffee shops, along with green spaces, park and picnic areas.

Further information about the facilities can be found on our website www.bracknelltowncouncil.gov.uk

Jocks Lane
Recreation Ground
RG12 2BH

Great Hollands
Recreation Ground
RG40 3EE



Environment Wardens

Our Environment Wardens Ollie and Ellie ensure our parks and green spaces are a safe environment for all to visit.

You will see them patrolling our 36 sites across Bracknell to ensure our sites are clear of litter, dog fouling, offer protection to wildlife and carrying out maintenance checks. Our Environment Wardens provide a visible presence, if you see them at our sites please say hello, they are full of environmental knowledge!

Reminders from Ollie and Ellie:

Please clean up after your dog – dog mess can be put into any of our bins provided.

Dogs – must be kept on leads when walking around North Lake and South Hill Park to protect the wildlife.

Picnics – Please ensure all litter is put in the bins provided around our sites or take home with you.

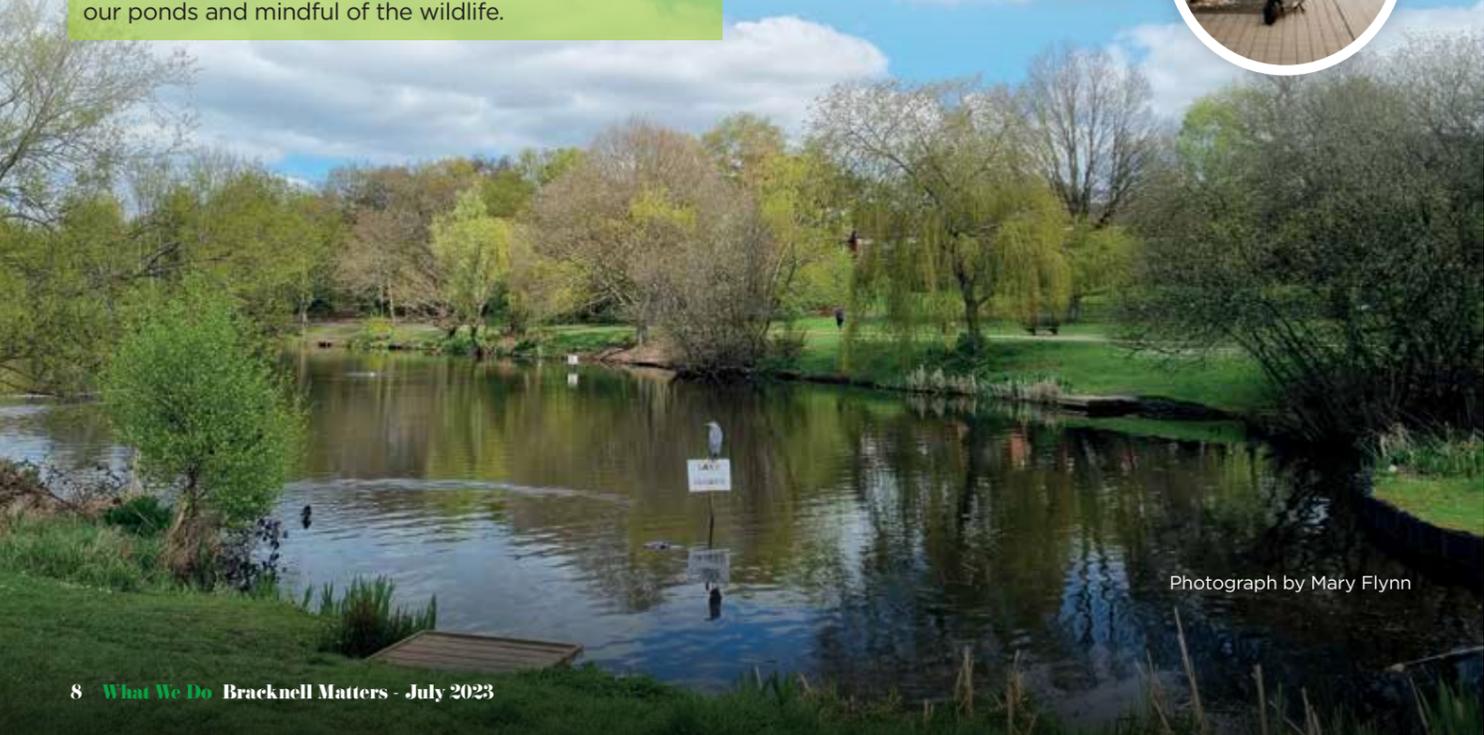
BBQ's – Only permitted at selected locations, please use bricks when using disposal BBQ's. Please refer to our website for permitted locations.

Splash Pads – Please ensure all children are supervised at all times.

Electric Bikes and Scooters – Are not permitted on our fields, green spaces or parks.

Fly tipping – Please report to 01344 420079.

Angling – Please be safe and responsible around our ponds and mindful of the wildlife.



Photograph by Mary Flynn

Meet The Team

Our council cannot be complete without the hardworking and dedicated staff and Councillors at Bracknell Town Council.



The team is complete with office staff based at Brooke House in the town centre. Environmental and Grounds staff which are seen across all sites maintaining all our green spaces, play areas and equipment. Our Environmental and Grounds staff ensure our sites are safe and well maintained for all to enjoy.

We have three pavilion shops across our sites and they are run and managed by a fantastic team. Sarah, Lilian, Mo and Vanessa are our longest serving pavilion assistants at BTC with an incredible over 100 years combined between them. Lisa, whom was a familiar face at Great Hollands and Jocks Lane Pavilion for 8 years has taken a new career. We would like to thank her for all her hard work, devotion and wish her well.

Our pavilion shops offer a variety of refreshments including tea, coffee, sweets, ice creams and much more. Our prices are always cost effective to ensure there is something for every age to enjoy. Arron, our Pavilion Supervisor is always looking at ways to improve and offer more varieties within our shops. He is open to all feedback or requests on products you would like to see stocked.

Please say hi to our welcoming staff when you next visit one of our pavilion coffee shops.

Arron Marchant – Pavilion Supervisor

What is your role at Bracknell Town Council?

I have been the Pavilion Supervisor at BTC for over 5 years. I manage a great team of staff who make our pavilion coffee shops a welcoming place for young and old to visit. Whether it be a young mum and child stopping for ice cream or friends catching up after a dog walk for a coffee and cake. We are always looking for ways to keep our refreshments current, and welcome feedback from our customers.

How long have you lived and worked in Bracknell?

I have lived and worked in Bracknell my whole life, my family run a local café at Mill Park.

What is your favourite thing about Bracknell?

The sense of community. I like interacting with the public and within my role I meet many people and there is always someone to say hello and chat to.

If you change one thing about Bracknell, what would it be and why?

More sporting activities for youths, keep them out of trouble and focus on something mentally and physically gratifying.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of work?

I am a dad, so spending time with my family is most important to me. I also enjoy working out at the gym and enjoy boxing. I am also very passionate about wildlife and assist with the swan sanctuary.



Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Life has taught me to live for the now, make the most of the time we have. I just enjoy being a happy positive person and passing it onto the people I meet along the way.

Facilities and Services

Focus on... Hall Hire

Braybrooke Recreation Ground, Great Hollands Recreation Ground and Jocks Lane each offer large, bright halls for hire.

BTC offer inexpensive hire for many events including parties, funeral wakes and conferences. Jocks Lane can hold up to 60 people and the other halls can hold up to 80 people.

Please call 01344 420079 or enquiries@bracknelltowncouncil.gov.uk for availability or to book.



Keep an eye on BTC social media pages for up to date offers and opening times.

Bracknell Town Council

Bracknell Town Council's (BTC) focus is maintaining 36 parks and green spaces across 13 wards in Bracknell. BTC aims to ensure there is plenty of quality green land and natural areas in Bracknell for years to come.



Mini Golf

Bracknell Town Council offers mini golf at Jocks Lane Recreation Ground for a small fee of £1.25 for children and £2.00 for adults. There are 18 holes to play in the beautiful green setting behind the pavilion. Sometimes the mini golf is offered for free during larger events at the site. Visit the coffee shop now to have a go!



Office and Depots

There is one main depot where Grounds Staff and the Recreational Facilities Manager are based with smaller depots dotted around Bracknell. The main BTC office and Council Chamber can be found at Brooke House in Bracknell High Street.

Green Spaces

BTC manages 36 green spaces which includes football and rugby pitches, astro turf and tennis courts. All of these can be booked by contacting the office. BTC has several allotment sites but due to high demand the waiting list is currently four years. Enjoy our green spaces and play areas but please take your litter home with you to keep our wildlife safe.



Annual Grants

Every year BTC award grants to applicants from local community groups, charities or businesses. The grant application process closes in October every year and application forms can be found on our website.

Events

BTC organises the Spring Event, Teddy Bears' Picnic and other events on many other special occasions. All of the Parish and Town Councils in Bracknell Forest team together to organise and fund the Summer of Fun events across many parks. Check our social media and website for planned events.

Garden Waste Sacks

BTC sell garden waste sacks for £1.20 at the office in Bracknell High Street. You can book the collection of these sacks from Bracknell Forest Council if you call 01344 352000.



TV Grant Scheme

BTC offers a grant of up to £30 for people who meet the below criteria:

- Be of State Pension Age (proof of age will be required)
- Be in receipt of Pension Credit (proof of entitlement letter will be required), full details can be found at www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility
- Have lived in Bracknell for a least one year (Utility bill/bank statement will be required)
- AND NOT be in receipt of a free TV Licence or a blind (severely sight impaired) 50% concession.



Bus Shelters

BTC provides and maintains the bus shelters in Bracknell which have domed rooftops and no adverts.

Education

The Environment Wardens visit schools and are present in Bracknell Town Council parks to educate the public on certain topics such as responsible dog ownership, litter, anti-social behaviour and wildlife conservation.

Coffee Shops

BTC has two coffee shops offering good value snacks and drinks. Visit Great Hollands Rec and Jocks Lane throughout the year, check our website for opening times.



Sports Pitch Hire

Hire of sports pitches is available at multiple sites across Bracknell including football, rugby, tennis and hockey. Booking is essential, contact the office to enquire.

Fishing Permits

Fishing permits for Jeans' Pond at Braybrooke Recreation Ground are available on the link to Braybrooke Nature and Fishing Club via our website.



Photocopying

BTC can make copies of your document for a small fee at the office.

Bracknell Parks Tennis

You can book a tennis court at Jocks Lane and Great Hollands Recreation Grounds via our website. You will receive a code for the gate upon booking.

For more details on any BTC services contact:
01344 420079 or email enquiries@bracknelltowncouncil.gov.uk
or visit the office at Brooke House, 54 High Street, Bracknell



King Charles III Coronation Celebrations

People across the country celebrated the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen between 6-8 May 2023.

Bracknell Town Council offered grants to successful applicants to help fund local community Coronation celebrations.

A small selection of these applicants were visited by the Bracknell Town Council Mayor.

Bracknell Town Council have installed benches across their sites to commemorate The Kings' Coronation.

Over 320 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Leaders from across Girlguiding Berkshire South East Division participated in our Division Big Help Out Event supported by Bracknell Town Council and Bracknell Forest Council.

Groups took part in litter picks across the Town, collecting a huge amount of litter from the local parks, streets and surrounding areas. The Bracknell Town Mayor came along and helped, presenting badges to some of the girls and even had a badge presented to him.



Age Concern

We were overjoyed to receive funding from Bracknell Town Council to support our memorable royal celebrations.

With this incredible support, we embarked on a journey of joy and festivity. Our centre became a hub of creativity and laughter as we delved into a multitude of royal-inspired activities. From delightful arts and crafts to mouth-watering baking sessions, elegant afternoon teas and energetic dances, our members and staff immersed themselves in a true celebration fit for kings and queens.

We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to bring such joy and happiness to our community. The funding not only allowed us to organise these unforgettable events but also helped foster a sense of togetherness and camaraderie among our members.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to each and every member of Bracknell Town Council who played a part in making these celebrations possible. Your belief in our mission and dedication to enhancing the lives of the elderly in our community have made a lasting impact.

We would also like to express our gratitude to our members, staff, volunteers, and supporters. Your enthusiasm and participation have made these royal celebrations truly memorable. Together, we have proven that when we come together, we can create something truly special".



CIO registered No. 1153607



Teddy Bears' Picnic

The sun was shining for our annual Teddy Bears' Picnic as families came to enjoy the stalls, activities and games on offer. This year we held the event at Great Hollands Recreation Ground and was a fantastic success. From planting flowers to farm animals there was much on offer for children and families to enjoy. The event is free and funded by BTC along with volunteer stall holders.



The Elms Project:



Funded by Biodiversity Net Gain

Our Recreation Facilities Manager, Ian and BFC Biodiversity Officer Marlies have created a wild meadow area which leads to the park.

Ian explains the development work carried out recently:



Here we have installed a mix of annual and perennial flower mix to create a long lasting biodiverse rich habitat for insects and bees. We have installed hardwood way markers with rubbing plates which children can follow the bee emblem around the park which will lead the to the walk called the 'Bumble bee trail'.

In the park we have planted an orchard of pear, apple and cherry trees which also are great with biodiversity.

We have also planted some disease resistant Elm trees to replace the failed Elm trees which sadly died decades ago.

We planted a circle of Hornbeams where the public can picnic in the summer and around the edges of the park along the treelines.

As part of the development work a new 'trim trail' has been installed for people to exercise during lunch breaks from the town centre, this forms part of the funding from BFC.

We plan to install some more bulb areas and native hedging to shield the surrounding buildings, along with installing bat and bird boxes. Picnic benches to follow soon and new interpretation notice boards which explain the design of The Elms.



Photograph by Justin Horton - The Elms





Parks and Play Areas

Bracknell Town Council maintains 36 parks and play areas. Our play areas cater for a wide range of ages from toddlers to teenagers. Our play equipment is regularly inspected and is subject to a schedule of refurbishment and repainting. You can find a full list of our sites including playing fields, sports pitches and allotments on our website:

www.bracknelltowncouncil.gov.uk/recreation-facilities/council-sites

Birch Hill & North Lake

- Birch Hill Central (Hedgehog Park)
- Birch Hill Rec (Astro Turf)
- Ludlow
- Barry Square
- North Lake (Open space)
- South Hill Road play area

Priestwood

- Jocks Lane Recreation Ground
- Pollardrow Avenue Play Area
- Stoney Road Play Area
- Limerick Close Allotments
- Windlesham Road Allotments

Crown Wood

- Crown Row/Leaves Green Play Area
- Garswood (small wooded area)
- Nettlecombe Play Area
- Nuthurst Play Area

Great Hollands North

- East Lodge (Jurassic Park)
- Winscombe
- Yardley

Town Centre & The Parks

- Brooke House - Town Council Offices
- Larges Lane Cemetery

Jennetts Park

- Ringmead Allotments
- Ringmead Playing fields

Wildridings

- Ennerdale Play area
- Mill Park Recreation Ground
- Crowthorne Road Allotments
- Threshfields Play area and field
- Wildridings Playing field

Great Hollands South

- Ullswater Recreation Ground
- Winscombe Play Area
- Yardley Play area
- Great Hollands Recreation Ground
- Great Hollands Bowls Club
- Home Farm Play area
- South Road Allotments
- Beedon Drive Play area

Harmans Water

- Calfridus Way Play area and field
- Cumnor Way play area
- Harmans Water Play area and Field
- Oareborough Play Area
- Glenwood Allotments

Bullbrook

- Bullbrook Drive
- Freeborn Way
- The Elms
- Deepfield Road

Garth

- Anneforde Place Allotments
- Anneforde Place Play area
- Braybrooke Recreation Ground
- Wilders Close Allotments

Hanworth

- Quintilis Play area
- Dryden Woods Play area
- Latimer Play area

Old Bracknell

- The Green Play area





Photograph by Justin Horton - The Elms



Photograph by Claire Moore - North Lake



Photograph by Claire Moore - North Lake

In the Spotlight

In every edition of the Bracknell Matters we feature amazing photographs taken by Bracknell residents in our parks. If you have any photos of our parks that you would like to be featured please email rachel.gordge@bracknelltowncouncil.gov.uk



Photograph by Mary Flynn



Photograph by Justin Horton - The Elms



Photograph by Mary Flynn

Kids' Corner

Make a Bugs Hotel!

Insects and other minibeasts need shelter and a safe place to hide from predators. You can help them by building a bug hotel in your garden or outside area.

Gather some sticks and find an undisturbed, sheltered spot outdoors. Pile them up and fill the gaps with smaller twigs and dry leaves.

Ladybirds and lacewings will love to crawl into the crevices and hide among the leaves.

Tick each bug when you find them in your garden or local park.



Snail



Worm



Millipede



Ladybird



Bumblebee



Moth



Slug

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BETTER WITH
COLOUR



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