

Spring 2022



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KINGSTON  
UPON THAMES

*The*  
**COWS**  
*moo-ve in*

**COMMUNITY**  
spirit is alive

Healthy  
**AND SAFE**  
Kingston

*Your*  
**KINGSTON**

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*Get in touch*

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*Welcome to the spring edition of Your Kingston.*

**Contents**

The last two years have **highlighted** that we live in a **changing world** and creating **opportunities for everyone in Kingston** is at the **heart** of everything we do.

Alongside partners, we've worked to help the local economy recover by distributing around £60m of support to 3,000 local firms.

We've also helped town centres through our High Street Recovery Fund and contributed to improving the local job market.

Our new agreement with the John Lewis Partnership will support local businesses by creating affordable workspace on the riverside as well as providing creative and performance space in the Undercroft.

We're expanding what's on offer in the borough's town centres and high streets, offering culture, leisure and entertainment, as well as the traditional shopping that Kingston town centre is renowned for.

That is why providing a brand-new community leisure complex in the heart of Kingston remains a top priority for our residents and was agreed last month.

As well as being a fully accessible and environmentally sustainable building, it will also connect more effectively with the neighbouring Kingston Museum and library. This will provide a range of leisure and cultural opportunities, as well as making the most of our heritage and history.

Similarly, our plans to bring new life to the centre of New Malden, including investing in the high street and creating new community spaces, will stimulate the local economy and help the area's rich culture to thrive.

We're also looking to provide crucial key worker and affordable housing for local people. We currently have nearly 1,000 households living in temporary accommodation and around 3,700 people on waiting lists for a council home.

The exciting Cambridge Road Estate regeneration will provide 2,170 new homes, 45% of which will be affordable, and it will also support one of our other key priorities to improve our climate.

Working with Thames Water we aim to create the country's first heating system powered by sewage.

All of this is only possible thanks to the fantastic support of residents and partners. It means the future looks bright for Kingston.

*Andreas*

**Councillor Andreas Kirsch**  
Leader of Kingston Council



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MAKING KINGSTON BETTER TOGETHER

Our town centres are the **beating heart** of our borough. Through all the **challenges** and ups and downs of the **Covid-19 pandemic**, they have remained **vital** places where we have **come together** to demonstrate **community spirit**.



It's important to invest in our high streets to ensure they remain vibrant and well loved. We are encouraging communities to reimagine town centres so the borough can grow and prosper after Covid-19.

This means supporting economic growth, encouraging a cultural scene and creating more welcoming spaces for everybody to relax and enjoy.



### Ancient Kingston Town, adapting to the future

Although community events were limited by the pandemic in 2021, Kingston Town Centre's cultural calendar remained rich and diverse.

This included learning from each other, celebrations, live music and arts, and poignant moments of reflection.

This year will bring improvements along the riverside from the development of a creative workspace at John Lewis to a new green space at Eagle Brewery Wharf and much more in between.

And hopefully we'll see the return of the iconic Kingston Carnival!



### Exciting times ahead for New Malden

New Malden is a truly unique town centre with deep heritage and an international culture scene.

We have secured funding to revitalise the high street, set up a business forum, and a series of community-led events will bring New Malden's new town square to life.

One of these is the Tamil Harvest Festival, which took place in January and included dancing, a parade and the unveiling of a plaque marking our twin city, Jaffna in Sri Lanka.

If you live in New Malden, you can be a part of this exciting change.

Contact the New Malden Town Centre Partnership to get involved at [danielle@thevillagenewmalden.co.uk](mailto:danielle@thevillagenewmalden.co.uk) or visit [kingston.gov.uk/NewMaldenEvents](http://kingston.gov.uk/NewMaldenEvents) to see the full programme.



New Malden's new town square - set to be brought to life by community-led events

### Surbiton showing its artistic side

New public art and murals are brightening up Surbiton.

As a community where people always look out for each other, we are continuing to work with local resident groups to keep its tight-knit, village community feel alive.

Over the coming months the Surbiton Art Trail will fill the town with colour, with opportunities for local residents and artists to get involved.

A new state-of-the-art dementia care nursing home called Surbitonian Gardens at Poppy Court, Browns Road, is scheduled to open in the summer. We are working with our partner Anavo and local cafe Surbitonian Grind, to run a public cafe that will give residents, their families and local communities the opportunity to meet, relax and share experiences together in a comfortable environment. You can read more about the new dementia care nursing home on page 10.

YOUR KINGSTON SPRING 2022



### Community spirit South of the Borough

In the South of the Borough, communities are always thinking of new and innovative ways to revitalise their local area.

In 2021, we worked with Community Brain to light up the neighbourhood for Christmas, and we've since supported various community initiatives.

The Hook Centre is expanding its role in the community and residents can now drop in for advice from the Housing Landlord Services team on housing matters.



These sessions currently run from 10am-12pm every Tuesday on a first-come, first-served basis. We're also looking to expand the services and community events at the centre. It's a great way of allowing us to be in easy reach for people and cutting time spent travelling, which means more time for residents and less pollution, helping to make Kingston a cleaner, greener place to live and work.



# Regeneration

## PLANS MOVING FORWARD

Plans for a major regeneration of Kingston's Cambridge Road Estate have been given outline approval by the council's Planning Committee.

The project, a joint venture between Kingston Council and developer Countryside, is set to see up to 2,170 new high quality, sustainable homes built on the Norbiton site.

More than 940 of the new flats, maisonettes and houses on the revamped estate will be affordable homes.

A total of 767 will be for social rent, with 174 for intermediate tenure (types of affordable homes). At least 114 of these will be council homes.

The decision will now go to the Greater London Authority for final approval.

The regeneration scheme is set to take place in five phases and the Planning Committee also approved a detailed planning application for the first of these phases. This will see a total of 452 new homes built on the estate, including 150 for social rent and 15 for intermediate tenure (types of affordable homes).

Construction is expected to begin in the summer.

### INVESTING IN KINGSTON'S FUTURE

The news comes after 86% of voters on the estate took part in a ballot on the plans and an overwhelming 73% backed proposals to regenerate it.

The scheme will not only tackle the shortage of much needed homes but help reduce high rates of crime, high unemployment and improve health outcomes for the local community. There is an acute need to provide more homes in the borough as Kingston's population is set to increase by over 30,000 during the next 20 years. There is a particular need for affordable homes with nearly 1,000 local households living in temporary accommodation and around 3,700 on the waiting list for a council home.

The £800m regeneration of the Cambridge Road Estate will also play a huge role in making Kingston a greener borough.

The council is working with Thames Water on an innovative energy solution using the waste discharge from the local sewage works to provide power for homes on the estate. It will be the first scheme of its kind in the country.



### CLEANER, GREENER KINGSTON



## Improving our ENVIRONMENT TOGETHER



### School Streets create cleaner, greener routes for families

Kingston is part of the London-wide initiative to keep children and their families safe by introducing 'School Streets'.

The scheme limits motor vehicle access around school start and finish times, reducing air pollution and supporting active travel by making it safer for children to walk, cycle and scoot to school. The council began introducing School Streets in 2019 as part of the response to tackle climate change and now has seven schemes in place across the borough.

To find out more, or to share your thoughts visit [kingstonletstalk.co.uk/school-streets](http://kingstonletstalk.co.uk/school-streets) or call 020 8547 5002.

### Tackling the climate emergency

Thank you to everyone who took the time to comment on our draft Climate Action Plan.

We had some really insightful feedback across all topics, but you were most engaged with our waste and travel proposals. A special thank you to those who held community focus groups on the draft plan.

Your thoughts helped shape our proposals that were presented to the Place Committee on 10 March. You can still talk to us about the plan and tell us what you are doing to help create a sustainable future for Kingston.

Get in touch at [climate@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:climate@kingston.gov.uk) or find out more at [kingstonletstalk.co.uk/climate-conversation](http://kingstonletstalk.co.uk/climate-conversation)



### Getting back to nature on Tolworth Court Farm

The council and local community have been working together on an exciting project at Tolworth Court Farm.

Running alongside the Hogsmill River, the area has the potential to be a pioneering nature reserve.

To help improve wildflower biodiversity, three Sussex cattle moo-ved in for three weeks in November - they'll return later this year to carry out another round of conservation grazing which will help the site to flourish. A huge thank you to the 40 Community Cow Monitors who helped look after them during their stay.

Over 70 volunteers joined us at conservation workshops to learn more about scything, a traditional meadow management technique we're using on the farm.

We're looking forward to working with the community to ensure Tolworth Court Farm continues to be a space where local people can reconnect with the natural world.



# Keeping Kingston HEALTHY AND SAFE



We also work with others, such as the Community Safety Partnership and Achieving for Children, on youth safety, including joint talks on alcohol and drugs.

Kingston is a fantastic community and I'm really pleased that there are now 25 new police officers in the town centre.

We want the people of Kingston to feel safe, as well as being safe. This means anti-social behaviour, vehicle theft and burglary, for example, will be dealt with quickly.

One of the main things the public can help us with, as well as volunteering, is to keep raising issues by calling 101, Crimestoppers or speaking to their local neighbourhood team.

Thank you for your support.

## Elisabeth

**Elisabeth Chapple**  
Policing Commander, South West



Activity in place to prevent these crimes includes weapon sweeps and screening arch operations (for knives/weapons). However, there is still more to do. Kingston, like many other London boroughs, is affected by high numbers of domestic abuse offences.

The Metropolitan Police work with Kingston Council and others to publicise help available for anyone affected by domestic abuse, or those who know of someone who is.

These include calling the police, calling Crimestoppers (0800 555 111) or being aware of the "Ask for ANI" scheme in pharmacies and "Ask for Angela" scheme in licensed premises, which offer help to those who need to ask discreetly.

We've been working with specialist crime colleagues and other police services to take drugs off our streets and dismantle "County Lines" (drug dealing networks).



Kingston - one of the safest boroughs in London

I've been the Policing Commander for Kingston since August 2020.

What has struck me is the strong collaboration between Kingston Council, councillors, volunteer groups, other partners and the public. I believe that makes a huge difference to how effective we are, together, at keeping Kingston safe.

Kingston was the safest borough in London based on total offence numbers (for the year to April 2021).

Street violence, for example robbery and violence affecting young people, is rare.

## Providing refugees with sanctuary

In 2015, Kingston Council was one of the first authorities in the country to commit to resettling Syrian refugees at the outbreak of the crisis.

Now, with the help of local partners, we have fulfilled our initial targets to provide 50 individuals with a new home and we are hard at work to support those forced to flee their homes in Afghanistan.

Read the full story at [kingston.gov.uk/VPRS](http://kingston.gov.uk/VPRS)



Abdulrahman Murabieh, Syrian refugee, held an exhibition of his artwork in Kingston.



## Creating a safer Kingston for women and girls

Last year, the council became White Ribbon accredited.

This includes our commitment to appoint volunteer male ambassadors as advocates to end violence against women and raise awareness of the issue within the council and local community. The safety of all women and girls has always been a high priority for us. We work closely with the police and other partners to ensure local support services are accessible to victim survivors and ensure work is being done at a local level to tackle sexual violence and sexism, as well as harassment and abuse against women.

Last year we worked to ensure there is safe and accessible accommodation for survivors, provided extensive training for professionals and night time economy businesses and launched the Women's Hub - a safe space for women to access longer term support. We also held a first round of engagement on the safety of women and girls in Kingston.

This is just the beginning. The survey we carried out helped identify areas of concern on a local level, and will help us continue working to safeguard people at risk, as well as preventing male violence against women before it starts.

For more information and to get support visit: [kingston.gov.uk/domestic-sexual-violence](http://kingston.gov.uk/domestic-sexual-violence)



## Inclusive Kingston - A borough for everybody

We are proud of our modern and diverse borough and we want to celebrate this.

As a council, we are committed to establishing Kingston as an area with equality of opportunity, fairness and an area that is inclusive.

We are also committed to fighting prejudice, racism and harassment in all their forms.

You can read Inclusive Kingston, our Equalities Strategy at [kingston.gov.uk/equalities](http://kingston.gov.uk/equalities)





# Transforming SOCIAL CARE FOR ADULTS

## Surbiton's new dementia care nursing home to open in the summer

The council has teamed up with leading care home operator Anavo Group to run a new state-of-the-art dementia care nursing home in Surbiton.

Subitonian Gardens at Poppy Court is due to open in the summer.

The new 80 room home in Browns Road, Surbiton is designed to provide the highest standard of care and to support residents living with dementia to remain as independent as possible.

The home will be the first of its kind in the borough when it opens this year.

Embracing the latest technology, Surbitonian Gardens will provide residents living with dementia and in need of specialist care with the best quality of life possible in an environment where they can feel truly at home.

It will include a variety of different communal areas including an on-site hairdresser, tech hub and games room and a multi-functional community space.

There will also be a range of dining areas, a cafe/bistro, a gift shop and gardens all open to the public.



As well as providing high quality care for residents, the new home will also deliver value for money.

We will work together with Anavo Group to provide the right care for an ageing population and manage the increasing demand for health and social care services.



Image credit: ECD Architects

## Gold Care Homes due to become new owner of Amy Woodgate House

We're working with Gold Care Homes to become the new leaseholder and future owner of Amy Woodgate House in Chessington.

For the last three years the council has been the interim care provider at Amy Woodgate, delivering residential care and day services for those living with dementia. We're particularly proud of the high quality care and support provided during the pandemic, however the challenges of this at such a difficult and uncertain time also made clear the importance of ensuring the long term future of Amy Woodgate.

Gold Care Homes has the experience, knowledge and expertise needed to help us continue to respond to the changing needs of residents living with dementia.

Consistently achieving 'Good' ratings in CQC assessments of their existing care facilities, Gold Care Homes is the right partner to help support the staff of Amy Woodgate to continue delivering high quality care.



They will also ensure the centre is able to provide the right support for residents, both now and in the future.

## New pilot project puts technology at the heart of adult social care

We have launched our ambitious and revolutionary Technology Enabled Care (TEC) project, in partnership with Ernst and Young and Re-think Partners.

The project teaches residents about technology to help them stay independent for longer, make the most of their friends, family and community support network and use services in new and different ways.

Our first wave of pilot projects will focus on adults with a learning disability, followed by older people.

They will be testing technology which can support them to live independently at home and give carers peace of mind, real-time information and back-up support if needed.

This technology can help with many aspects of life including daily household tasks, personal safety and security and the prevention and monitoring of falls. This includes non-intrusive movement sensors, fall detectors and communication devices.

The results from the pilots will be shared across the entire health and social care system to help improve and integrate technology into everyday lives.





SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO THRIVE & PROSPER



Boost your

# SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE

Are you a **Kingston resident** looking for a job? Whether it is your first job, a new job, a change in sector or you're returning after time off, **Kingston Work Match can help.**

In addition to working with local recruiters to find the best local talent, Work Match provides free courses and workshops to improve your CV writing, boost your confidence ahead of job interviews, manage change better, improve your public speaking and more.

In addition, Kingston Work Match offers a free, bespoke recruitment service for local businesses of all sizes, sectors and specialisms. Work Match has supported hundreds of local companies to find their next high quality member of staff.

Get in touch today by emailing [rbkworkmatch@kingston.partners](mailto:rbkworkmatch@kingston.partners) or call 020 8871 5191. For more information visit [kingstonworkmatch.org](http://kingstonworkmatch.org)



# Spotlight ON THE COMMUNITY



## How does the council support your work?

The council has been a long-term supporter of the charity and we are working together on the development of a new creative space, known as the Undercroft by the riverside in Kingston town centre, which we aim to launch in 2022-23.

## What initiatives are you running at the moment?

- FUSE International (formerly the International Arts Festival), the UK's biggest multi-arts festival for young people and emerging artists under 27, will take place from 1-10 July 2022.
- The Creative Talent Programme, supporting up to three artists each year with a bursary, support from a specific mentor and workshops to enable them to grow their creative practice.
- A Skills Development Programme that offers hands on, skills-based work experience and volunteering opportunities.
- The development of a new creative space in Kingston town centre, intending to be multi-use, multi-arts, benefitting all local young people and community groups, as well as attracting those from further afield.
- Creative Youth Connects, which will see young people researching and creatively responding to local music heritage between the 1960s and 1990s called Art, Music, Pop Fashion in Kingston.

Find out more at [creativyouthcharity.org](http://creativyouthcharity.org) or get in touch at [hello@creativyouthcharity.org](mailto:hello@creativyouthcharity.org)

Our borough has a wide range of **diverse charities and community interest groups** and we really **value working with them.** This time we spoke to **Louise Coles, CEO of Creative Youth.**

### What do Creative Youth do?

We are a charity that enables young people's (5-26 year olds) potential through the arts. We equip and empower them with the skills and confidence to succeed in life and their chosen careers on an international stage.

### What are you most proud of?

Delivering a physical festival in Kingston last summer, giving young people a platform to share their voices and be part of a wider creative community, despite the challenges of Covid-19.

We recently recruited three unemployed young people through the government's Kickstart scheme. Two are continuing to work with us and have recently project managed Taste of Kingston, a creative high street business recovery project.

One of them has gone on to study photography at university and said:

**"Working at Creative Youth has had a lasting impact on me, I learnt so much about the industry and had the best experience".**

Hello Louise



Carl, a Kingston resident who has benefited from Work Match services, said:

**"I had just relocated to the UK last year and this being my very first time job searching in this unfamiliar market, I was unsure of my self-worth and how to approach the task at the beginning.**

**That changed very quickly after speaking to Work Match. I feel a lot more confident about my skills and how best to present myself to a potential employer and I have received lots more positive feedback. Thank you!"**



Better Health Let's do this



KEEPING KINGSTON HEALTHY & SAFE

# Kickstart YOUR HEALTH TODAY



The last **two years** have been difficult, and **many of us** are still feeling **stress** and **anxiety**.

Luckily there are many free resources available for people in Kingston.

If you are worried about your weight, want to get moving again, or are interested in improving your mental and physical wellbeing, there is help available.

Find out more at [connectedkingston.uk](http://connectedkingston.uk) or get in touch on 020 8547 6815 or [healthy.lifestyles@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:healthy.lifestyles@kingston.gov.uk)

Group and one to one support is provided through Slimming World and Second Nature, as well as help to access the NHS National Diabetes Prevention Programme.

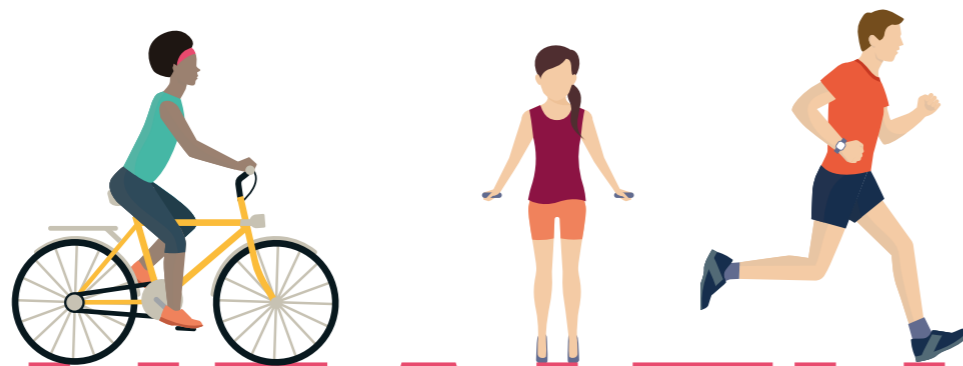
We can also help you stop smoking, manage your alcohol intake and improve your mental health.

Even a small lifestyle change can have a big impact on lowering your risk of serious and common conditions like Type 2 Diabetes, heart disease and some cancers, and improve your mental wellbeing.

Addressing some of our habits is tough, but simple small steps often win the race.

**"I enjoyed the weekly goals, it was very helpful to have articles and videos to nudge habit forming in the right direction. I now feel more positive, better able to handle higher pressures at work and physically fitter."**

Kingston resident



# HEALTH



SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO THRIVE & PROSPER

# Rainbow House LIGHTING UP LIVES



A new, purpose-built, overnight short breaks centre for **children and young people with complex needs** has been opened in Chessington by **Kingston Council** and **Achieving for Children**.

Rainbow House, at the Moor Lane Centre, is a seven bedroom facility with a secluded outdoor space, providing care for children and young people aged 8 to 17 who may have multiple disabilities, complex medical needs and challenging behaviour. It provides a haven for the young people and offers their families some time away from full time caring.



**"We're especially proud of the fantastic input from young people and their families. Their feedback shaped and influenced the design of the building. Seeing it now being used and enjoyed by them is wonderful."**

Ian Dodds  
Director of Children's Services for Kingston Council

We have commissioned local Kingston-based charity Enhance -Able to deliver the service at Rainbow House.



## Stay IN TOUCH

Get the latest updates

Would you like to receive fortnightly updates about the borough direct to your inbox?

Sign up to the council's e-newsletter and we'll keep you up to date with the latest borough news, local events and council services.

Just head to [kingston.gov.uk/newsletter](http://kingston.gov.uk/newsletter) to sign up today.



# Take

# 5

Register to vote

Check **where** you need to go to vote - your polling station may have changed.

*Your voice matters. Make sure it is heard.*



Scan the QR code to find out about 2022's elections, or visit

[WWW.KINGSTON.GOV.UK/ELECTIONS](http://WWW.KINGSTON.GOV.UK/ELECTIONS)



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We couldn't do it without you



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# WE'VE BEEN BOOSTED

## JOIN US LET'S GET PROTECTED

Over time, two doses do not give you enough protection against Covid-19.

[NHS.UK/COVIDVACCINATION](http://NHS.UK/COVIDVACCINATION)



No matter which point you're at in your vaccination journey - 1st dose, 2nd or booster - there's never been a more important time to take that next step. So visit the South West London NHS website now for the very latest walk-in vaccine clinics, or to book your next appointment - and stay up to date with your vaccinations [swlondonccg.nhs.uk/](http://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/)

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