

# Latest news

and information

---

## Cabinet set to approve £1 million budget to tackle climate change across Horsham District

At a Horsham District Council Cabinet meeting on 27 January, councillors will look to approve a budget of some £1 million to help protect and enhance the District's local environment in line with the Council's corporate objectives to tackle the effects of climate change, become carbon neutral by 2030 and reverse the decline in wildlife.

Horsham District Council Cabinet Member for the Environment and Rural Affairs Cllr James Wright commented:



"I very much welcome this extra investment to support a host of new measures to protect the local environment.

"As a council we are on a mission to tackle climate change and this increase in funding targeted specifically at initiatives to reduce carbon and increase biodiversity across our District very much reflects this."

[Read more](#)

---

## Calling all landlords! Apply for a Shop Improvement Grant for your vacant premises

If you own a vacant property in Horsham District, you can apply for a grant of up to £4,000 to improve your premises and make it more attractive and ready for a tenant.

The new scheme will help landlords by offering 50% towards the costs of the improvement work up to the sum of £4,000, with 50% match funding from landlords. This scheme is aimed at making vacant premises more vibrant and easier to renew for long-term tenants.



Also, due to popular demand, the [Shop Improvement Grant Scheme](#) for business owners is reopening with renewed grant funding. If you are a business owner, with a property in Horsham District, you can apply for up to £4,000 to refurbish your outlet with only 25% match funding needed.

[Read more](#)

---

## Cabinet set to agree 2022/23 budget

Horsham District Council Cabinet Members will be asked to set the Council's financial and capital budget for the coming financial year which starts in April. This follows receipt of encouraging information from central Government about the amount of provisional financial settlement the Council will receive during the coming year.

In 2022/23, we will be carrying out a £10 million capital programme which will see us replacing existing corporate vehicles, providing disabled facility grants and boosting housing enabling grants for the benefit of residents, amongst various other necessary infrastructure improvement initiatives.

We will also be in a position to invest in ambitious projects such as:

- Some £1 million on climate change initiatives, helping to reduce the Council's direct emissions to help it become carbon neutral by 2030 and improve the local environment
- £200k to support local business post-pandemic economic recovery across the District
- £140k on an extensive programme to tackle the increasing threat of [Ash dieback](#) disease to protect our parks and green spaces
- £200k towards events to build upon the legacy of the 2019 Year of Culture
- Investment to help our Community Link customers switch from analogue to digital telecare systems
- Groundwork for future investment options at key venues such as the Capitol theatre and Southwater County Park.

[Read more](#)

---

## Horsham's Rec Rink to extend its stay

By popular demand, Horsham's first indoor ice rink, the Rec Rink will now stay open until the end of March 2022.

The Rec Rink, created jointly by the Rec Rooms team and Horsham District Council, has exceeded all expectations in terms of the volume of people wishing to enjoy its facilities, attracting both local skaters and visitors from far outside the County.



[Read more](#)

---

## Council's housing company completes on four new affordable homes

Horsham District Homes, Horsham District Council's wholly owned housing company, has taken handover of four new affordable homes. Developed by Crayfern Limited, the one bedroom properties will be allocated to households from the Council's Housing Register.



[Read more](#)

---

## Horsham Museum and Art Gallery's first exhibition of 2022

Horsham Museum and Art Gallery's first exhibition of 2022 will showcase the work of Robin Alexander Elliott. Robin studied Fine Art at Sidcup School of Art in the 50s under the tutelage of Frank Auerbach, but it was during his time in National Service in the Yorkshire Dales that he was inspired to capture the drama of the Dales landscape on canvas.



The collection to be displayed at the Museum captures the vistas of his travels, reflecting the differences in light and colour between each place.

[Read more](#)

---

## Jeremy Quin MP visits our Discovery Hub

Jeremy Quin MP dropped in to see Horsham District Council's new Discovery Hub at Warnham Local Nature Reserve on 7 January.

The Discovery Hub was declared open to the public at the end of October 2021 at the same time as the new Shelley Wildlife Garden.

The Discovery Hub is a multifunctional space for all visitors, young and old, to enjoy. Its unique octagonal design and floor to ceiling windows offer beautiful view across the Reserve's Millpond. It provides an inspiring start to any visitor's journey around the Reserve.



[Read more](#)