



Supporting Our Community

## OUR LATEST NEWS



### Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Motion

On Thursday, 25 July local residents in the Council Chamber’s Public Gallery clapped and cheered as Godalming Town Council unanimously passed a resolution acknowledging its commitment to support the climate emergency and biodiversity motion put forward by Councillor Steve Williams.

In recognising the climate emergency, the Council resolved to work to reduce carbon emissions and become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 with an earlier target for carbon neutrality in scope 1 and scope 2 emissions by 2025. The Council agreed to audit its carbon emissions to enable it to monitor progress and also to create a budget to provide grants to support and encourage carbon reduction and mitigate schemes within Godalming and projects to encourage the biodiversity of our town.

The Mayor of Godalming, Councillor Penny Rivers, said “We recognise that there is a climate emergency which means we have to take action. I’m pleased that Godalming Town Council is leading the way locally. But, we all need to change our lifestyles radically; we need to live more simply so that our home planet may simply live”.

#### ACTION PLAN

In supporting the motion, Members agreed on an action plan to ensure that the Council:

- transfers to green energy providers;
- reduces its reliance on gas heating;
- has carbon offsetting arrangements in place; and
- will ensure that its vehicles are electric powered by 2030.

The Council’s action plan aims to achieve carbon neutral status without incurring extra operating costs or financial penalties.

Councillor Paul Follows, Leader of Godalming Town Council said “the Town Council has examined all its existing energy supplies and will transfer to a green energy provider as soon as the existing fixed terms expire. This is a simple step that every other business and organisation in the town could take that would make a tangible reduction in CO<sup>2</sup> emissions”.

Scope 1 and 2 cover direct emissions sources e.g. fuel used in company vehicles and purchased electricity. Scope 3 emissions cover all indirect emissions due to the activities of an organisation.  
[www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions/](http://www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions/)

### Public Water Supply at The Phillips Memorial Park

The resolution to become a carbon neutral Council was made on the UK’s hottest day ever. As part of the climate emergency debate, Members heard how many residents and families had taken advantage of the weather to relax and enjoy The Phillips Memorial Park, but Members were also informed that as there is no public water supply at the park, many residents were using single use plastic bottles to provide water.

To encourage the use of reusable bottles and to reduce the need for



single use plastic, the Council agreed to work with colleagues at Waverley Borough Council to explore possibilities to provide a public water supply for the filling of reusable water bottles, along with a drinking fountain. The Town Council also gave approval to explore options to install water bottle filling points at locations in Farncombe and Godalming.

Members also recognised the need to encourage biodiversity by agreeing to explore options for creating areas of wildflower meadows within the Town boundaries.

## Extinction Rebellion Wildflower Garden

With more than 40% of insect species in decline and a third endangered, Extinction Rebellion (XR) aim to create a garden to raise awareness within the community and to highlight what steps residents can take to halt the alarming loss of insect biodiversity, which in turn causes the decline of many birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish that eat them.

A group of local volunteers, with support from Godalming Town Council, as well as Waverley Borough and Surrey County Councils, will be re-wilding an area of grass verge near The Wharf Nursery. The group will be stripping and removing the existing grass turf, rotovating the earth whilst incorporating soil ameliorants for shrub planting areas. An area for perennial wildflowers will be raked over ready for sowing. Excitingly, willow sculptures of pollinating bees will be installed to remind us all of the importance of our pollinating insects.

Godalming Town Council has provided a grant of £500 to assist with this project.



## A Forward Thinking Traditional Council – To Robe Or Not To Robe

At the July meeting of Godalming Town Council, it's members received recommendations from the Mayorality Committee regarding the replacement and repair of Councillors' robes, which traditionally have been worn by all Members of the Council at council meetings and civic events.

In considering the Committee's recommendations, Members agreed that in future only the Mayor of

the Town would indicate their office by the wearing of robes. Whilst Members acknowledged that the cessation of the wearing of civic robes by Councillors would be missed by many within the community, they also expressed the belief that others would not consider the cost of replacing councillors' robes a priority for a forward thinking Council.

Councillor Paul Follows, Leader of Godalming Town Council said "Whilst I do understand some people's attachment to the Town Council's tradition of wearing civic robes, I believe that Godalming Town Council should be judged on what it does and not on what Members of the Council wear. In making this decision the Council recognised that the position of the Mayor needed to be considered separately from other councillors, which is why the Mayor will continue to wear the traditional red Mayoral robe".

## Grants

Godalming Town Council is pleased to announce that at its last grants meeting, Councillors approved grants totalling £2,850 from the General Grant and Council Community Fund to assist community organisations whose work benefits the residents of the town.

The beneficiaries of Council grants were The Cellar Café which was granted £850 to assist with funding for a coach trip for Cellar customers and their families to visit the coast; The Aquila Explorer Scout Unit, part of the Godalming District Scout Council was granted £500 to sponsor two of its Explorer Scouts to represent Surrey Scouts at the 2019 World Jamboree in the USA; and The Brigitte Trust who was granted £500 to assist with training and support costs to assist its Godalming-based clients.

In addition to the £500 allocated to the re-wilding and education project by Extinction Rebellion reported earlier, £500 was also granted to the Godalming Scouts & Guides Headquarters toward the works being supported by The Peter Caudle Memorial Trust for creating an outdoor learning space at the Godalming Scouts & Guides Headquarters on The Bury's.

Leader of Godalming Town Council, Cllr Paul Follows said "The Town Council is delighted to continue to support the many community organisations who do such a superb job for the Town and this remains a vitally important objective for Godalming Town Council".

For further details on how to apply for a Council grant, please visit <http://godalming-tc.gov.uk/grants/>.

## Broadwater Park Community Centre - Available For Hire

Looking for a versatile space to hire for local community meetings, activities or family gatherings? Look no further than Broadwater Park Community Centre in Summers Road.

For full information on hire dates available, rates and more please visit <https://godalming-tc.gov.uk/broadwater-park/> or contact [operations@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:operations@godalming-tc.gov.uk).

## Godalming Park Run

Parkrun is a collection of 5-kilometre running events that take place every week at over 1,400 locations in twenty-three countries across five continents. During Godalming Town Council's Staycation, a Fun Run took place using the Broadwater Park 3-2-1km route. Whilst the Staycation Fun Run was a one off event, Godalming Town Council has committed to support the Godalming Park Run Organising Group in working with the Borough Council and other stakeholders to find ways of creating a regular Park Run in Godalming.

## Relaxed Screening



'Mary Poppins' is the next FREE relaxed screening to be shown at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre on Saturday, 21 September. Brought to you by Godalming Film Society, GOLO, Godalming Dementia Action Alliance and Godalming Town Council.

People living with dementia and people who find normal cinema going experiences challenging are warmly welcomed along with their family, friends and carers. Doors open 1.45pm – film starts 2.30pm. FREE TICKETS and refreshments, to book your tickets please call **01483 523575**.

## Godalming Commemorates VE 75

The 8 May 2020 will be the 75th anniversary of the guns falling silent at the end of the war in Europe. Years of carnage and destruction had come to an end and millions of people took to the streets to celebrate peace, remember their loved ones and to hope for the future, but not forgetting those still in conflict.

The 75th anniversary will provide an opportunity to reflect on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who saw the Nation through this dark and terrifying period. To commemorate this important time Godalming Town Council, together with other local groups and organisations, is exploring plans for a VE Day 75 weekend; a three-day commemoration from 8 May to 10 May 2020. Plans are underway to commemorate this special anniversary starting on the Friday, which has been designated as a bank holiday. We hope the community will embrace the opportunity for street parties and to attend the commemoration event at The Phillips Memorial Park. More details will be found on the Godalming Town Council website, nearer the time.

## Vegan Pop-Up

Godalming Town Council is planning to bring a Vegan Pop-Up event to Godalming once a month hopefully starting in September. If you would like more information please visit [www.godalming-tc.gov.uk](http://www.godalming-tc.gov.uk).

## Godalming Town Council Consultation & Listening Events

Godalming Town Council wants to hear the views and concerns of its residents and has arranged a series of Consultations & Listening Events throughout the year on the third Saturday of each month. These will take place between 12 Noon and 2.30pm in The Ogleshorpe Hall at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre. The first event will be held on Saturday, 21 September 2019.

Heritage Open Weekend  
 FREE Relaxed screening of Mary Poppins  
 Consultations & Listening  
 Fireworks  
 Christmas Festival  
 Churches Together Town Day  
 & Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Santa Fun Run

Saturday, 13 and Sunday, 14 Sept  
 Saturday, 21 September  
 Saturdays, 21 September, 19 October, 16 November  
 Friday, 1 November  
 Saturday, 30 November  
 Saturday, 14 December



**Town Dates**  
*for your diary...*

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