

GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL

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Sir/Madam

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU to attend the Full Council Meeting of the Godalming Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Waverley Borough Council, The Burys, Godalming on THURSDAY, 24 JULY 2025 at 6.30pm.

Andy Jeffery

DATED this 18th day of July 2025.

Andy Jeffery
CEO to the Town Council

If you wish to speak at this meeting please contact Godalming Town Council on 01483 523575 or email office@godalming-tc.gov.uk

Where possible proceedings will be live streamed via the Town Council's YouTube page. If you wish to watch the council meeting's proceedings, please go to Godalming Town Council's [YouTube](#) page.

The meeting may be preceded by prayer – all who wish to participate in prayers are most welcome to do so; however, anyone not wishing to participate may leave the chamber or sit quietly for the short duration of the prayers. All individuals' decisions in this matter are respected.

AGENDA

1. **MINUTES**

THE TOWN MAYOR to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 30 June 2025.

2. **APOLOGIES**

TO RECEIVE apologies for absence.

3. **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS**

To receive from Members any declarations of interests in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting required to be disclosed by the Localism Act 2011 and the Godalming Members' Code of Conduct.

4. **PETITIONS/STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

THE TOWN MAYOR to invite members of the public to make representations, ask or answer questions and give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda or other matters not on the agenda. This forum to be conducted in accordance with Standing Order 5:

- i. The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting for a maximum of three minutes per person or 15 minutes overall, unless otherwise directed by the chair of the meeting,
- ii. A question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.

Members of the Public have the right to attend all meetings of the Town Council and its Committees and are welcome.

If a matter raised is one for principal councils or other authorities, the person making representations will be informed of the appropriate contact details.

5. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

To consider any questions from councillors in accordance with Standing Order 6.

6. RECEIPT OF OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive official announcements, letters, etc.

7. SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

Members to receive a presentation from Gemma Taylor and Roz Maree about Smartphone Free Childhood movement and what it hopes to achieve.

8. PRESENTATIONS FROM WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Broadwater Park – Former Golf Course

Members to receive an update from Debbie Smith, Development Programme Manager, and Paul Smith, Capital Projects Manager, Waverley Borough Council on the former golf course at Broadwater Park.

9. RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS

To receive Chairmen's reports of the Committees as under:

Environment & Planning Committee

Neighbourhood CIL Awards: Farncombe Day Centre & Guildford Hockey Club

Members are asked to consider two Neighbourhood CIL funding recommendations from the Environment & Planning Committee. The first supports a feasibility study for the future regeneration of Farncombe Day Centre, a key facility for older residents. The second, relates to Guildford Hockey Club's site within Godalming, and seeks funding to replace failing floodlights at the Broadwater School hockey and netball pitches. Both applications meet the Council's CIL criteria and aim to deliver clear community benefit. **These proposals will be considered as separate items later in the agenda.**

Policy & Management Committee

Community Asset Transfers & Local Government Reorganisation: Use of Earmarked Reserves

In recognition of the strategic work being undertaken by the Council in preparation for Local Government Reorganisation and ongoing Community Asset Transfer opportunities, the Policy & Management Committee has reviewed the funding arrangements supporting this activity. With the establishment of a dedicated LGR Reserve, the Committee agreed this should now serve as the principal funding source for all CAT and LGR-related costs. A clear governance framework and authorisation protocol has been proposed to ensure appropriate oversight and transparency. **This matter will be considered as a separate item later in the agenda, with a recommendation to Full Council for formal approval.**

The Pepperpot Restoration Project

The Pepperpot continues to undergo a significant programme of structural and conservation-led restoration, with key works already completed and others progressing. This Council has previously recognised both the urgency and the civic importance of securing this iconic building for future generations. The Policy & Management Committee has now reviewed the updated financial position and is recommending the allocation of an additional £149,000 to

support the project's full and proper completion. This funding, drawn from a mix of reserves and in-year underspends, will allow the Council to honour its longstanding commitment to preserving The Pepperpot's heritage, while avoiding further delay, risk, or cost escalation. **A formal resolution regarding this matter will be considered as a separate item later in this agenda.**

Re-designation of the Youth Service Support Group

The Policy & Management Committee considered a recommendation from the Staffing Committee that the Youth Service Support Group be re-designated to report directly to the Policy & Management Committee, rather than continuing as a support group under the Staffing Committee.

The Policy & Management Committee supports this recommendation and requests that Full Council **resolves to approve** the re-designation of the Youth Service Support Group as a function of the Policy & Management Committee.

Staffing Committee

The Chair of Staffing will, if required, provide an update on staffing matters within the exempt section of the meeting.

10. RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the undermentioned Committees:

	Meetings Dated
Audit Committee	22 May 2025 10 July 2025
Environment & Planning	5 June 2025 17 July 2025
Policy & Management Committee	22 May 2025 5 June 2025 17 July 2025
Staffing Committee	22 May 2025 10 July 2025

11. FARNCOMBE DAY CENTRE: NEIGHBOURHOOD CIL APPLICATION

The Environment & Planning Committee considered a request from Farncombe Day Centre for £18,600 of Neighbourhood CIL funding to undertake a feasibility study. The study will inform a Strategic CIL bid for the full regeneration of the Centre, a key community facility supporting older residents and carers.

The Committee found the application compliant with Regulation 59C and the Council's CIL policy, noting its strategic relevance and potential long-term benefit.

Recommendation

The Environment & Planning Committee recommends that Full Council approve a Neighbourhood CIL grant of £18,600 to Farncombe Day Centre to support the feasibility study, subject to the following conditions:

- i. The feasibility study is to be completed and submitted to Godalming Town Council by 31 October 2025, to inform a strategic CIL bid to Waverley Borough Council.

- ii. Farncombe Day Centre must continue active engagement with both Waverley Borough Council and Godalming Town Council throughout the project and provide key outcomes from the study to the CEO.
- iii. Funds shall be released only on receipt of valid invoices or under the terms of a formal contract agreed by the council.

12. GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB: NEIGHBOURHOOD CIL APPLICATION – FLOODLIGHT REPLACEMENT

The Environment & Planning Committee considered a £100,000 Neighbourhood CIL request from Guildford Hockey Club to replace failing floodlights at its Broadwater School facility with energy-efficient LED systems. The project supports increased community access, youth and women's sport, and long-term sustainability.

The total cost is £134,400, with the remaining £34,400 funded from a joint sinking fund. The Committee confirmed the proposal meets CIL criteria and offers clear community benefit.

Recommendation

The Environment & Planning Committee recommends that Full Council approve a Neighbourhood CIL grant of £100,000 to Guildford Hockey Club for the floodlight replacement project, subject to the following conditions:

- i. Guildford Hockey Club is to provide confirmation of contractor appointment and project **delivery by 31 October 2025**.
- ii. Godalming Town Council will reimburse 74.63% of submitted invoices, up to a maximum of £100,000, with the remaining balance funded by the applicant.
- iii. Guildford Hockey Club is to report to Godalming Town Council within 12 months of completion on:
 - Energy savings achieved;
 - Growth in community usage; and
 - A plan to replenish the sinking fund drawn upon to part-fund the works.
- iv. Any publicity, media, or signage relating to the floodlight upgrade must acknowledge Godalming Town Council's financial contribution through Neighbourhood CIL.

13. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – EXPENDITURE FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

The Policy & Management Committee considered the appropriate use of earmarked reserves in supporting Community Asset Transfer (CAT) activity and initiatives arising from Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Previously, CAT-related costs were met from the Professional Fees Reserve. However, with the creation of the dedicated LGR Reserve, the Committee agreed this now provides a more appropriate funding source.

In line with Financial Regulation 4.11, which requires that any addition to or withdrawal from an earmarked reserve be approved by Full Council, the Committee has agreed a governance framework and authorisation protocol for use of the LGR Reserve.

Recommendation

The Policy & Management Committee recommends that Full Council approve the following:

- i. **Scope of Expenditure:** Costs related to Expressions of Interest and Business Cases for land, property, or service transfers—as recommended by the LGR Working Group and approved by the Committee—shall be met from the LGR Reserve.

- ii. **Eligible Costs:** May include administrative support, legal, valuation or surveyor fees, consultancy, public engagement (e.g. newsletters, publicity), and other LGR-related expenditure.
- iii. **Budgetary Limitation:** Spend shall not exceed the balance of the LGR Reserve without further Full Council approval.
- iv. **Authorisation Protocol:** Authority is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the LGR Working Group, to authorise such expenditure. All spending shall be reported to the Committee.

14. PEPPERPOT RENOVATION – ADDITIONAL FUNDING ALLOCATION

Further to the resolution of the Policy & Management Committee at its meeting of 17 July 2025, Members are asked to consider and approve the release of additional funding to enable the completion of the ongoing restoration and structural repair works at The Pepperpot.

The Pepperpot project, as detailed in the Committee's progress report and associated cost centre update, continues to advance well. However, the scope of works and historic cost deferrals have resulted in a total revised project estimate of £316,000, inclusive of a 5% contingency.

To ensure completion without further delay or avoidable cost escalation, the Committee resolved to recommend that Full Council authorise the allocation of an additional £149,000, which with the previously agreed expenditure (Min No 643-24 refers) will result in funds being drawn as follows:

Funding Source	Amount
Capital Works Reserve	£229,698
Utilise Professional Fee Other Reserve	£17,000
Estimated Revenue Underspend	£42,000
Land & Property Reserve	£27,000
Sum	£315,698

Recommendation:

That Full Council:

- i. Notes the project update and financial report on the Pepperpot renovation works;
- ii. Authorises the release of an additional £149,000 to support the completion of the project, which with the funding agreed at Min No. 643-24 is to be funded as set out in the table above;
- iii. Reaffirms its commitment to the completion of this critical heritage and civic building project in full, recognising the importance of timely investment to secure The Pepperpot's long-term structural integrity and continued public value.

15. SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST IN BLOOM

Members will wish to note that the judging for the South and South-East In Bloom (SSEIB) competition for the town centre area took place on Wednesday, 2 July and for Nightingale and Eashing Cemeteries on Thursday, 10 July. In preparation for the judging the CEO asked the Grounds Maintenance team to provide the judges with a briefing document highlighting their work over the last 12 months. The CEO hopes Members find the briefing notes, attached for the information of Members, an interesting and informative read.

Additionally, Members will wish to note Godalming Town Council's success in the 2025 Godalming-in-Bloom competition, in which this year GTC was awarded top spot for the Town

Centre floral displays, the Broadwater Youth Centre Wellness Garden won best Community Garden and a special mention for Jane Fitzsimmons, our Senior Youth Support Worker and the driving force behind the wellness garden project was named as the Godalming Gardener of the Year.

16. CITIZENS' ADVICE SLA REPORT

As required by the SLA between GTC and Citizens Advice South-West Surrey (CASWS), Members to receive a report from CASWS relating to Q1 2025 – 2026 (attached for the information of Members).

17. AUTHORISATION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TO AUTHORISE the Chief Executive Officer to sign or, where appropriate to have sealed on behalf of the Town Council any orders, deeds, or documents necessary to give effect to any of the matters contained in the Reports received at this meeting or in any Resolution passed by the Council.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Full Council meeting is scheduled to be held in the Council Chamber on Thursday, 4 September 2025 at 6.30pm.

19. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brought forward by permission of the Chair. Requests to be submitted prior to commencement of the meeting.

IN PURSUANCE OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 S.1(2), THE COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS FROM THE MEETING AT THIS POINT PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM(S) 20 & 21 BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED I.E LEGALLY PRIVILEGED INFORMATION, AND STAFFING MATTERS.

20. SKILLWAY LEASE

Members to consider the final draft lease for the former chapel buildings at Nightingale Cemetery to be offered to the Christian Warehouse Trust for use by the Skillway workshops. (attached for the information of Members).

Members are requested to resolve to agree for the CEO to arrange for this lease to be signed and sealed on behalf of the Council.

21. STAFFING MATTERS

Members to receive a report from the Chair of the Staffing Committee on staffing matters

Floral Godalming 2025



South and South East in Bloom

Judges' Briefing Notes 2025

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Plants, Propagation and the Polytunnel

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Pests, Weeds and Erigeron Alley

Green Waste and Composting

Burys Allotments Clear Up Project

Godalming Museum Garden

Our Sponsors

Welcome to *Godalming*

Floral Godalming was introduced by Godalming Town Council in 2018 with the installation of summer bedding barrier planters, hanging baskets and lamppost troughs in the historic town centre.

With the generous support from local businesses each year since we have been able to expand the scope of Floral Godalming to enhance the area. Numerous Godalming retailers join us in adding colour to the town with their own vibrant hanging baskets and planters!

In the last 5 years Godalming Town Council has taken on an additional 32 new planters on top of the original barrier planters and baskets. This has involved refurbishing existing planters and introducing new large permanent planters which has allowed us to provide floral displays year round.

Our focus this last year has been on improving and expanding our floral displays in the most sustainable and environmental ways possible.

As well as the High Street Godalming Town Council manages various community gardens, allotments and areas of land around the town.

Godalming is busy throughout the year with a weekly Friday Market in Crown Court and three flagship events including: The Spring Festival (April), The Food Festival (July) and the Christmas Festival and Lights Switch-on (November) with numerous other events arranged by local groups, volunteers and GTC.

Over the last year Godalming Town Council has taken on several renovation projects within the town including the completed refurbishment of the Crown Court Toilet facilities and currently the painting and fixing up of Godalming's iconic Pepperpot building.





Plants, Propagation and the Polytunnel

The original aim of introducing planters to the town centre was to enhance the area with colourful summer bedding. Increasingly our focus has been on how to be able to deliver this in a way that is as sustainable as possible.

The major difference this year in how we delivered our planters was in the building of our own polytunnel with an irrigation system. We also improved our greenhouse with polycarbonate windows to improve insulation and save electricity. Our initial concern whether we would fill the giant polytunnel was quickly put to rest and we were soon fighting for space for the hundreds of plants we were able to produce from seed cuttings and purchased plug plants!



As it was our first season with the polytunnel we had to work out what our maximum capacity for growing on site would be whilst looking to incrementally reduce the need to outsource our seasonal planters. Whilst we have always planted up our permanent planters ourselves this was the first year that we took on 26 hanging baskets, 10 lamppost troughs and 5 railing planters which adorn Church Street. After this seasons' trial run next year we hope to be able to do all our displays in house.

To maximise space and eliminate the need for any plastic cell trays we introduced soil blocking as a method of starting off our seedlings which worked very effectively in allowing us to produce large numbers of seedlings in a small space. Our local garden centre recently introduced a plant pot recycling scheme which meant that we were able to source all of our pots used for growing on second hand. All our planters are peat free and we have also transitioned to using organic seaweed fertiliser this year which is kinder to the planet.



This year we grew:

- 142 plants from cuttings
- 502 plants from seed
- 1068 plants from plugs
- We planted up ourselves:
- 9 beds around town
- 26 large planters
- Over 20 baskets and bucket planters

All of the feature plants displayed in our 12 permanent planters including our pink salvia amistad, echinacea, gaura, rudbeckia and strawberry plants were all grown from seed, runners and cuttings which proved very cost effective. Thanks to the space in the polytunnel we were able to grow substantial plants ready for hardening off in May. At the end of the season they will not be wasted but will all be given new homes in our beds.





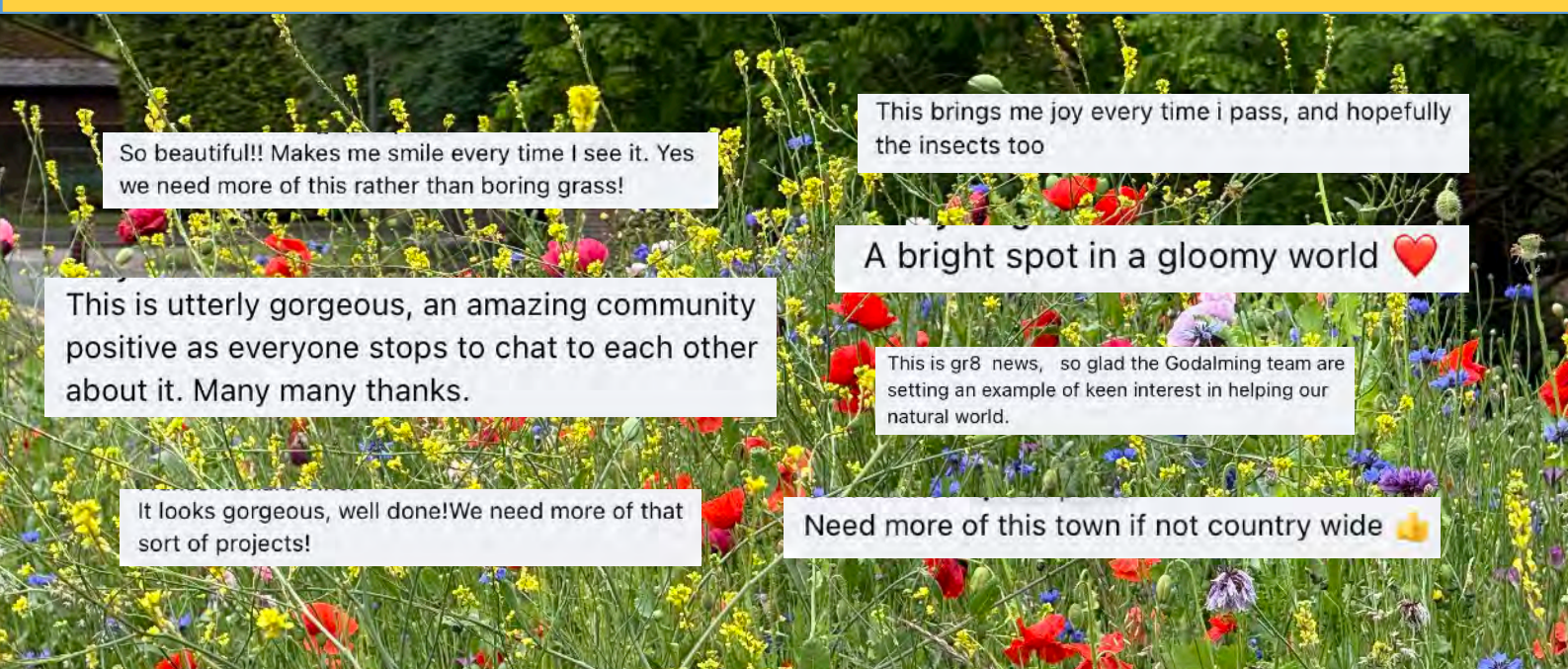
Going Wild!

Over the last few years at our maintenance base at Eashing Cemetery we have managed to successfully establish several areas of wildflowers and so we decided to use the same techniques to brighten up other public spaces and increase their environmental benefits. Last autumn we sowed our first roadside patch of 'Instant Sunshine' annual and perennial meadow in Godalming.

We have received lovely responses to our wildflowers from passers by, on community pages online and importantly from the pollinators which the area buzzes with. We have tried to showcase some of our work and gain feedback through social media more this year.

Looking to the future we hope to be able to take on more patches of mown grassland and develop them into pollinator pockets of land.

Another experiment we have undertaken has been our mini meadow planters on Chalk road roundabout where we have sown pollinator friendly seeds collected from our own meadows directly into the planters. This has been a very cost-saving, sustainable and fun way to create a display this spring.



So beautiful!! Makes me smile every time I see it. Yes we need more of this rather than boring grass!

This brings me joy every time i pass, and hopefully the insects too

This is utterly gorgeous, an amazing community positive as everyone stops to chat to each other about it. Many many thanks.

A bright spot in a gloomy world ❤️

This is gr8 news, so glad the Godalming team are setting an example of keen interest in helping our natural world.

It looks gorgeous, well done! We need more of that sort of projects!

Need more of this town if not country wide 👍

Boarden Bridge Woodland Garden

One of the projects taken on this spring has been the rejuvenation of the footpath and garden leading to Boarden Bridge. Since 2018 when major restoration was made, both to the bridge itself and its surrounding areas, time and frequent usage had gradually worn away the shingle path leading to puddles and people walking on the garden to avoid them! Firstly, a new set of edge boards were instated along the flowerbed border to prevent soil washing into the path. Next, we laid new shingle along the pathway.

The ongoing project to fill up the border itself has continued this year. Local brownie groups planted the bed up with bulbs which always put on a beautiful display in spring. Last year we planted more with the aim to extend interest through the seasons. One of the borders challenges is that it is a particularly dry area of shade so finding the right plants has been crucial.

Much of what we have planted has come from division and transplanting self seeders including the ajuga, pulmonaria, euphorbia, foxgloves, heucheras and lady's mantle. A more selective approach to weeding this area has taken place this year in an attempt to encourage the wildflowers such as hedge woundwort that grow happily and non invasively there to spread. Some of the many tree sapling taken out of this bed have been potted up and grown on in the polytunnel to be planted out one day when needed. Biennial seeds like honesty, forget me nots and aquilegia have been sown for next spring too.



Extinction Rebellion Wildflower Garden

What was once an area of tightly mown grass is now a thriving pocket of green space at one of Godalming's busiest junctions. In 2019 it was planted up by volunteers from Extinction Rebellion climate group with the help of Godalming Town Council. In the years since the native shrubs and sustainable perennial plants have established and provide a screen of green to cover the car park behind.



Thanks to the polytunnel we have been able to grow more plants for this bed with the original theme 'bee friendly' in mind. This spring we grew pollinator-loved plants like salvia, nepeta, hollyhocks, cosmos, rudbeckia and verbena to fill the bed with even more nectar rich plants.

As well as the more formal elements to this border we have introduced wildflower patches with plenty of corn cockles and ox-eye daisy to support our pollinators.

We have the very kind support from members of our community who help to weed and litter pick our areas around town. We have been able to support community lead work parties with tools to clear up untidy areas around town and lend a hand to remove green waste for them. Our beds have also benefited from kind donations and the wisdom of local garden experts. The next stage of planting for this bed is to extend the season of interest it provides with some spring bulbs saved from our winter/spring planter displays.





Geranium Corner

As well as filling up our established beds this spring we have also been looking for new places that we can fill with plants. One of these is our bed at Chalk road roundabout which is predominantly hedging that provides a backdrop for our banner frames that advertise our events and community services. New for this spring is the planting of 'Geranium Corner' which alongside the new permanent planters we added last year is the next stage to brighten up the entrance to the town.

Keeping Godalming Tidy

Wherever we go we try to keep Godalming tidy and when needed we will clear up any fly tipping. Our litter picking kits are often lent out to diligent groups in the community who make a huge difference in maintaining Godalming's clean streets and paths. This year we have teamed up with very considerate residents and local shops in a combined effort to tidy up certain problem areas.



Perennial based planters at Chalk Road/More planters to brighten up alleyways/Our flags for VE Day!

Ways of Watering

One of the ways in which we are as sustainable as possible in caring for our displays is through our system of watering. We abstract the water we use on our beds and planters from the River Wey that runs conveniently under the town bridge. As well as this being beneficial to our plants that thrive on non-chlorinated water it is also highly cost effective. Similarly we use many of Amberol's self-watering planters which saves constant watering and reduces water waste. With our purpose built bowser trailer, its electric pump system and the electric van which we use to tow it around town, our watering rounds are able to be planet-friendly, cost effective and time saving! Local shops help to keep an eye on planters and often give them an extra water over weekends.



They are beautifully planted and help support pollinators - win win!

The forget me nots in Spring were really fabulous!
Lots of lovely areas of wild flowers. 😊

They are so beautiful they bring a lot of smiles well done and thank you 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌



I'm always super impressed by the amazing floral displays in our lovely town.
Many thanks to the Godalming Town Council's gardening team.



Pests, Weeds and Erigeron Alley

Godalming Town Council uses exclusively manual weeding practices which has multiple benefits. This way we can keep the town tidy but not sterile and instead of releasing harmful herbicides we can take a more selective approach and incorporate more spaces for nature to benefit from. One such experiment this year has been 'Erigeron Alley' where mexican fleabane has escaped from our planters. With cooperation from the conscientious street sweeper they have been allowed to bloom! As a plant recognised by the RHS as being beneficial for pollinators, Erigeron has put on a beautiful and valuable display in the pavement cracks.

As well as not using herbicides we also avoid pesticides in favour of measures like copper tape and night time patrols to remove slugs and snails from our planters. Our local cafe also supports us in donating coffee grounds which we use in our greenhouse and polytunnel.



Helping Hands

We have been very fortunate to have been helped by volunteers who have watered, weeded, planted and deadheaded across Godalming Town Council's planters and beds!

It is with thanks to:

Juliet Woolf for organising a work party to weed and clear land in Farncombe.

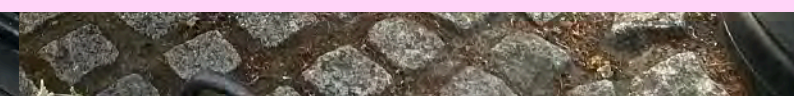
Alex Harvey for his work deadheading and watering in town.

Bell House Nursery children for litter picking on the allotments.

Malcolm for the squash and gardening consultancy.

Mrs Lopez for the biscuits and deadheading!

And everyone who has kindly donated plants and bulbs!





Burys Allotments Clear Up Project

Our allotments in the centre of town have undergone significant renovation works this year. As well as major tree works to make the area safe, new steps have been installed and a large scale clear up operation has taken place to remove unwanted debris from plots. These allotments are used by a mixture of experienced growers and newcomers. Two of the plots are cared for by Moss Lane school and Bell House nursery which gives many children the opportunity to spend time in nature. We have plans to establish the bottom quarter where growing is not possible due to the wet conditions as a carefully managed wildlife habitat.

Green Waste and Composting

All green waste from Godalming Town Council's gardening activities is collected at our base at Eashing Cemetery. A portion of it is now composted in our bunker and used as mulch on our beds around town in particular at Boarden Bridge to improve the soil. Logs and other useful materials are kept to make bug hotels and wigwam structures for our site at Eashing. In the future more of these will be installed around the town. Tree surveys are undertaken for all trees in Godalming Town Council's ownership. Any works carried out are completed as recommended and the woodchip generated is used to mulch garden beds in town and in our cemeteries.



Godalming Museum Garden

Godalming Museum was founded in 1921 in the Pepperpot, Godalming's old town hall. In 1987 it moved across the road to its present building, one of the attractions of which was space for a museum garden. Gertrude Jekyll, the Arts and Crafts artist, gardener, and craftswoman (1843 – 1932) lived at nearby Munstead Wood and the museum wanted to create a garden which would show visitors some of her ideas in practice and complement the displays in the Arts and Crafts gallery, as well as providing useful outdoor space for the café and for events. In 1989 the trustees commissioned Hambledon-based architects Michael and Frances Edwards to design a Jekyll-style Garden for the museum. The original planting scheme for the border was as close to Gertrude Jekyll's original plan as it could be within the space available. Some of the plants were kindly donated by the owners of Jekyll gardens, including Munstead Wood and Vann, and we like to think they may be descended from those grown by Miss Jekyll herself in her Munstead Wood nursery.

Created with great enthusiasm, gardens never stand still, and the Museum looks forward to the maturing of the young topiary peacock and to new plants and ideas which future volunteers and gardeners will introduce. Ray is our Museum Garden volunteer and keeps the garden looking beautiful. It's a tranquil space for people to sit and have their lunch in the summer. The garden is also transformed into Father Christmas' grotto for one day of the year for our festival and lights switch on in November!



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Thank you to all of our
sponsors. The names of which
are displayed on our website
and on our signage in the
town.

We hope you enjoyed visiting
Godalming.







Nightingale Cemetery

South and South East in Bloom

Judges' Briefing Notes 2025

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Welcome to Nightingale Cemetery

Memorial Garden Rejuvenation Project

Our Rewilding Areas

Tree Replacement Scheme

Railings Restoration

Lodge Garden Planting

Hedge Works

Our Signage

Recycling at Nightingale

Welcome to Nightingale Cemetery

Nightingale Cemetery opened in 1857 to provide a solution to the issue of overcrowding in Godalming's churchyard. On a steep hill overlooking Godalming, Nightingale is home to a number of war graves, two listed buildings and listed railings running along the roadside.

Since 2012 the chapel building and mortuary have been the unique workshops for the local charity Skillway who provide vocational training in carpentry, metal work and crafts for 13-16 year olds. Instructors pass on practical skills to students who are struggling to engage in the traditional school environment and in doing so give them confidence and wider career prospects. The team are often seen enjoying a cup of tea overlooking the grounds!

Several projects from the pupils at Skillway which showcase some of the skills developed at Nightingale are displayed across Godalming Town Council's cemeteries including a beautiful bench and over ten embossed plaques denoting the different varieties of trees planted.

Whilst thoroughly modern in its current usage Nightingale is steeped in town history. An iceberg shaped memorial stone to Jack Phillips, the Farncombe born wireless operator who perished with the Titanic, can be seen from the pathway on Deanery Road. Another notable grave at Nightingale is that of renowned Godalming cricketer, Julius Caesar.

This year several large projects taken on at Nightingale has given the Cemetery a new lease of life!



Memorial Garden Rejuvenation Project

In tribute to the 281 men from Godalming who died in the First World War and all those in the town who were affected Go Godalming Association held an open competition to design a commemorative garden in the main entrance to the grounds of Nightingale cemetery. The winner Michelle Clackson designed a space incorporating benches for rest and remembrance for visitors to Nightingale. Sustainable planting which includes the drought tolerant perennials nepeta, lavender, perovskia and achillea give this bed a much needed resilience and also make it a perfect space for pollinators. A beautiful and lesser seen white with pink centre lychnis coronaria 'Oculata' is a stand out plant in Michelle's design.

This year Michelle and her colleague Anthony beautifully restored the garden to its original glory by repainting the symbolic sleepers of the raised beds each of which represent those who died in the war. This spring, as well as a new coat of paint, the garden also received more penstemons and a new circle of lavenders to refresh the middle bed after damage from deer. The garden is regularly cared for, weeded and watered as required. The most challenging aspect aside from animal damage is keeping on top of the couch grass that has found its way into the beds. Despite the natural challenges a lot of work has gone in this year to refresh and reinvigorate this peaceful sunny resting spot.



Our Rewilding Areas

There are three areas throughout the cemetery where we let the grass grow in order to support our wildlife. These sections are left long throughout the year to provide food, habitat and shelter through the seasons without infringing on grave space or reducing visual appeal of the cemetery. Standing next to these areas in summer you can hear the populations of insects which have found a home at Nightingale. This autumn we would like to mow, scarify and seed sections of these areas with native wildflowers to improve the diversity of species within these locations as we have done at Eashing Cemetery. Space around the graves is cut on a three week schedule by Chris and the team at QLS our meticulous grass cutting contractors.



Tree Replacement Scheme

Significant progress has been made within the last year as part of our tree replacement program. 36 yews in total have been taken out and those which will remain have been recently topped. Two more cherry trees have been planted this year, both securely fenced to protect them from deers and watered regularly to ensure their survival. Thanks to our electrically powered pump and bowser watering new plants and trees at Nightingale until they are established is manageable and we can save tap water by collecting water from the river in town. With each new tree that is planted the diversity of species across the cemetery will increase and provide habitat and food for a wider variety of birds and mammals than tightly trimmed yews can. The next stage in this program of removal is scheduled for this autumn. Tree surveys have been conducted earlier this year at both of our cemeteries and all necessary works scheduled.



Railings Restoration

We have begun works on the massive project to refurbish more than 80 panels of railings and gates which run along the front boundary of Nightingale Cemetery. Originally manufactured in 1857 by Faulkner and Sons the railings were Grade II listed in 1991 (Jeffery, 2024). It was decided by Godalming Town Council to restore the flaking railings by stripping them right back to their cast iron as over the years they have been painted many times with different paints.

A phased approach has begun to remove sections and send them to a specialist for structural repairs, sandblasting and powder-coating. Over winter two local companies were considered and sent trial panels in order to review the finish. The first two batches have been taken away by the selected specialist meanwhile the remaining posts are being sanded, primed and painted ready for the railings to be reinstalled upon their return. Once this project is completed the front of the cemetery will look as good as new. Locals passing by have given lots of great feedback and are happy to see the railings being cared for.



Lodge Garden Planting

Last year we cleared and planted up the right hand entrance bed to the cemetery which had been left wild previously. This spring we filled the bed further with plants grown ourselves from seeds, cuttings and division. Growing ourselves is a more sustainable way of filling our gardens (even if it takes longer to achieve) as we can guarantee no use of peat, all natural pest control, recycled and recyclable plastics only and no carbon emitting importing of plants. In this bed in particular the hot lips salvia, erigeron karvinskianus and oregano were all chosen to grow in our polytunnel because of their tolerance to dry conditions and crucially the benefits they provide to pollinators. Now in its second year the garden provides a more welcoming and colourful entrance to our visitors. In the autumn bulbs from the town planters will be donated to this bed to brighten it up in early spring before the perennials come into flower.

Hedge Works

We completed all our hedge maintenance at Nightingale this spring in order to keep them a manageable size whilst balancing their benefits to birds and wildlife. Until the Autumn they will be left (until nesting season is over) before they will be cut again. All our green waste from Nightingale's hedges and other projects is taken back to Eashing Cemetery where we sort it into compostable material to use eventually to improve the soil in Godalming Town Council's beds and borders. For larger scale tree and hedge works we wood chip materials ourselves to use as mulch and weed suppressant as required.

A new hedge will be planted around the lodge house garden in autumn when the conditions will aid its establishment. This will give a clearer boundary to the lodge garden and help to improve the visual appearance of the cemetery from the roadside.



Our Signage

The signage boards installed at the entrance and outside the chapel building highlight the cemetery's history, war graves, its current usage by Skillway and a map to help visitors navigate around the graves. We have used the notice board at the entrance of the cemetery this year to place updates on the improvement works being carried out across Nightingale to keep visitors informed on projects like the tree replacement scheme and the railings renovation project.

Recycling at Nightingale

Nightingale cemetery is well loved by the community and valued as a tranquil space to those visiting graves or those simply enjoying nature. While regular litter picking and tidying of tributes is carried out and bins are provided across the site we are fortunate that the space is very well respected. We hope that you also enjoy visiting Nightingale Cemetery.







Eashing Cemetery

South and South East in Bloom

Judges' Briefing Notes 2025

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Welcome to Eashing Cemetery

Godalming's first publicly operated cemetery (Nightingale Cemetery) was filling up fast by the early 1890's and so a second site was needed. In 1893, 20 acres up on a windy hilltop to the south of the town was chosen as the location for Godalming's next cemetery and purchased for £2,000.

The Joint Burial Committee borrowed £5,000 to purchase the land, construct the buildings and set out a cemetery with 20,000 grave spaces. The first burial took place on 15 June 1900, at the then burial rate it was estimated that Eashing Cemetery would be available for 100 years.

Over 125 years later, Eashing Cemetery is still used for burials. As well as space for traditional internments down either side of the centre driveway, we also offers burials in a woodland section where grass is only cut once a year. There are also two gardens of remembrance dedicated to ashes internments.



We take pride in maintaining Eashing to a high standard out of respect for those at rest here and those that visit.

Now, the central chapel building is used as a maintenance base for Godalming Town Council. We aim to look after the cemetery grounds in a way that is most beneficial to wildlife and pleasing for visitors.

This year at Eashing more trees have been planted, more seeds have been sown and many exciting developments have taken place!



Wildflowers

An understanding of the importance of burial sites and their contribution to biodiversity in the UK is central to our care of Eashing Cemetery. Over the last five years we have undertaken various projects to restore, create and manage wildflower meadows across the site in order to boost floral diversity and the many ecological benefits this provides.

In March 2020 a wildflower trial was undertaken to ascertain the best methods of meadow creation at Eashing. Native and archaeophyte perennial seeds mixed with an annual cornfield nurse were sown onto bare soil and are now, several years into their lifecycles and with careful management, species rich meadows. In some areas we have successfully introduced yellow rattle in order to combat the invasion of smothering grasses. With summer cuts, using our tractor mounted cut and collector, we can prevent nutrients returning to the soil after seed has been set to ensure the meadows return the following year.

Adjacent, species poor, grasslands that we leave uncut from March to late summer have since increased in their populations of native wildflower species through natural seed dispersal from the sown areas. This autumn we plan to mow, scarify and seed species poor areas to encourage further floral diversity.

We have also created a new leaflet featuring the prominent wildflowers at Eashing in order for visitors to identify them.

This year we have used our experience in wildflower meadow creation at Eashing in other biodiversity boosting projects across areas of Godalming like at The Mill (pictured) which we hope to be able to expand to more areas in the future.



Wildflowers at Eashing

Many of these species occur naturally here but some of them have been introduced specifically to increase biodiversity.



Wildflowers provide essential food to bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

In the last century a significant amount of the UK's wildflower meadows have gone however they play an essential role in our food chain, in carbon sequestration and in combating greenhouse gasses.



Collect your own seeds from the two cemetery entrance beds. Wait until the plants have finished flowering and have produced dry brown seed heads then take a few to grow at home.



Cultivated Plants

All plants found in garden centres originated from wildflowers. If you want to provide food for bees in your own space plant any of these nectar rich flowers!



Wildflower Guide to Eashing Cemetery





Eashing Community Garden and Orchard

In partnership with Godalming Town Council, Waverley Borough Council, Thakeham Homes and COPSE (Community Orchards Projects South East), locally founded tree planting enterprise Roots for the Future began creating a community garden and orchard trail at Eashing Cemetery in 2022. With investment from Thakeham Homes who, on behalf of Waverley, redeveloped much of the estate surrounding the cemetery, this project is part of a wider venture to build community in the surrounding area.

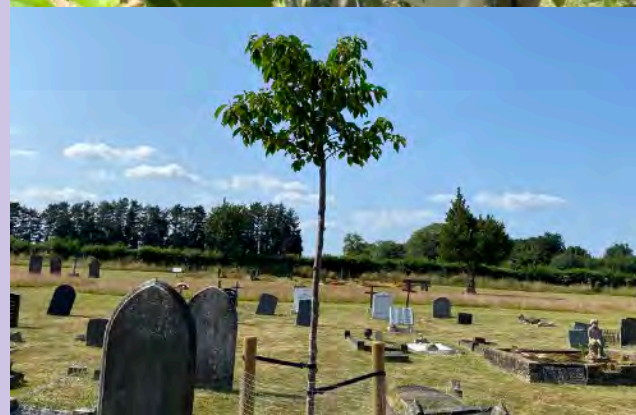
Francesca from Roots for the Future has held many activity days for local schools and children's groups giving them a chance to enjoy spending time in nature. These events have previously seen activities days centred on national events like the Big Butterfly Count, planting days to establish the border around the Garden of Remembrance and tree planting days with each phase of the orchard.

This initiative has established a strong connection with the wider community as well as beautiful gardens well maintained by Kate Douglas of Waverley Borough Council and a trail around the cemetery of various orchard trees which visitors can explore.

We are able to support the community garden by providing wood chip to maintain their paths and reduce the weeding required in their bed, watering (thanks to our bowser) when required and ground preparation for plantings and tree weeding and mulching once a year.

The penultimate stage of the community orchard planting took place thanks to Gareth Matthes at COPSE last autumn with the addition of apples. The last of the fruit trees will be planted this autumn. Gareth, volunteers and Godalming Town Council continue to care for the orchard.

A selection of suitable trees to be planted amongst grave spaces at Eashing has been accepted and the first cherry tree was planted this spring. Eashing's trees were surveyed earlier this year and necessary works have been scheduled.



Grasslands and Habitats

As much grass as possible at Eashing is left uncut from March to late autumn in order to provide a habitat for invertebrates. The grave spaces and paths are cut on a three week cycle and areas where we are controlling the spread of bracken are more regularly mown. Several zones along the boundary are left uncut in rotation each winter to provide habitat but kept from returning to scrub. Throughout Eashing there are log piles and tree stumps, bat boxes, twigwams, bird tables and bee houses.

Hedges and boundaries to the cemetery are maintained in accordance with nesting guidelines in order to provide minimal disruption to birds. Brambles are left to fruit before trimming and dense overgrowth is left to provide a natural corridor for wildlife.

Our Chapel lawns were left to grow throughout May and June and what emerged was a very species rich meadow that the insects clearly enjoyed! We plan to try and harvest seed from these areas in mid summer to restore species across more of our grasslands.



Gardens

Our two flower beds that frame the view of the chapel from the entrance to Eashing Cemetery welcome visitors and on a sunny day a mass of pollinators. This year we were able to mulch all our cemetery beds for the first time with our own compost made on site. This has made a huge difference to the plants.

All of the new plants that have been added this year to the cemetery beds have been grown on site from seed and cuttings. Although plants in these beds have been chosen for their drought tolerance, whilst plants establish we have used water collected from the river using our bowser to water them in.

We also made new bee houses for our yard bed this year.

Visitors are encouraged to harvest seeds from our beds to grow at home. We hope to arrange a seed swap event next year!



Polytunnel

One of the biggest developments at Eashing has been the installation of our new polytunnel which we finished building last summer. As well as being our maintenance base, the cemetery is now where we grow a large percentage of plants for our gardens across Godalming and our High Street planters. We experimented with growing from seed, cuttings and buying plug plants to grow on in order to work out what our maximum capacity for growing on site could be.



This year we grew:

142 plants from cuttings

502 plants from seed

1068 plants from plugs

And we filled up:

9 beds

Along with our greenhouse which we improved this year with polycarbonate windows to aid insulation, our polytunnel has allowed us to produce hundreds of peat free grown plants. In our growing we have experimented with techniques like soil blocking to reduce plastics, organic seaweed feeds and using our own compost.



Compost and Green Waste

This year we have wood chipped or composted a large amount of the green waste which we process at Eashing. This is furthering our goal to become as self sufficient and as sustainable as possible. By increasing what we can use on site we can reduce the impact on the environment.



Electric vehicles, tools and a New Tractor

All three of our maintenance vehicles are now electric! We also continue to operate electric strimmers, mowers and blowers at Eashing. Operations across the cemetery have become easier with the upgrade of our tractor. With an increased horsepower we are able to run our cut and collector whenever it is needed (and not have to hire) which should benefit our meadows.



Our Signage

Around the cemetery we have various information boards. One explains the history of the cemetery, one the location of Eashing's war graves, another the flora and fauna and finally one locating the Ahmadiyya grave section. Our visitor noticeboard is used to promote community planting days and updates on any project work being carried out. We have also put up identification posters for visitors made by the Butterfly Conservation Trust for the Big Butterfly Count to encourage people to take part from Eashing.



Litter Picking and disposal facilities

Litter picking and tribute tidying across Eashing is a constant job due to the very windy conditions. In order to try to make it easier for visitors to keep Eashing looking tidy this year we installed two new public bins. For our maintenance operations we have also been able to get a separate recycling bin on a weekly collection which we have found out we use much more frequently than general waste.

We hope that you enjoyed visiting Eashing Cemetery.



Citizens Advice South West Surrey
Report for Godalming Town Council Q1 2025-26

Clients engaged by Citizens Advice South West Surrey

Ward	Clients	Activities	Issues
Godalming Binscombe and Charterhouse	81	249	227
Godalming Central and Ockford	59	269	177
Godalming Farncombe and Catteshall	56	151	157
Godalming Holloway	14	44	60
Group 1 Total	210	713	621
Milford + Witley	68	236	173
Bramley + Wonersh	48	141	106
Elstead + Peperharow	17	78	58
Group 2 Total	133	455	337
Grand Total	343	1168	958

Clients engaged by the Citizens Advice Network as a whole

This captures the number of residents in Godalming who are helped by CASWS as well as other areas of the Citizens Advice Network, e.g. our Surrey Adviceline and the National Adviceline.

Ward	Clients	Activities	Issues
Godalming Binscombe and Charterhouse	95	332	373
Godalming Central and Ockford	74	351	369
Godalming Farncombe and Catteshall	73	187	58
Godalming Holloway	21	54	19
Group 1 Total	263	924	819
Milford + Witley	89	328	266
Bramley + Wonersh	70	204	266
Elstead + Peperharow	24	104	171
Group 2 Total	183	636	703
Grand Total	446	1560	1522

GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL

Disclosure by a Member¹ of a disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest (non-pecuniary interest) in a matter under consideration at a meeting (S.31 (4) Localism Act 2011 and the adopted Godalming Members' Code of Conduct).

As required by the Localism Act 2011 and the adopted Godalming Members' Code of Conduct, **I HEREBY DISCLOSE**, for the information of the authority that I have [a disclosable pecuniary interest]² [a registerable interest (non-pecuniary interest)]³ in the following matter:-

COMMITTEE:

DATE:

NAME OF COUNCILLOR: _____

Please use the form below to state in which agenda items you have an interest.

Agenda No.	Subject	Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Other Registerable Interests (Non-Pecuniary Interests)	Reason

Signed _____

Dated _____

¹ "Member" includes co-opted member, member of a committee, joint committee or sub-committee

² A disclosable pecuniary interest is defined by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) regulations 2012/1464 and relate to employment, office, trade, profession or vocation, sponsorship, contracts, beneficial interests in land, licences to occupy land, corporate tenancies and securities

³ A registerable interest (non-pecuniary interest) is defined by Section 9 of the Godalming Members' Code of Conduct.