

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT FOR EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY

At a meeting held on 7 August 2025 Godalming Town Council reaffirmed its longstanding commitment to equality, diversity and inclusivity. In doing so, Councillors approved a motion that outlines tangible actions in support for Pride in Surrey 2025.

The motion underlines the Council's belief in the vital role LGBTQ+ organisations play in promoting community cohesion, providing advocacy, and supporting individuals.

A History of Support

Godalming previously hosted Pride in Surrey 2021, an event that was widely praised for its inclusivity, vibrancy, and community engagement. Local Councillors have also previously provided funding through their Member Allocations to help ensure accessibility and success.

Councillors praised Pride in Surrey for its clear and continued commitment to inclusion and representation of all LGBTQ+ identities and expressed regret at SCC's decision to withdraw support for Pride in Surrey 2025.

Key Measures Agreed by Godalming Town Council

The Council resolved to:

- Publicly reaffirm its support for Pride in Surrey and the wider LGBTQ+ community.
- Dissociate itself from SCC's decision and reasoning regarding the 2025 event.
- Award a £1,500 grant from its Emerging Projects Fund to Pride in Surrey to help underwrite accessibility measures and maintain free entry options for the 2025 event in Guildford (6 September 2025).
- Encourage residents and councillors to attend and support the 2025 event as a visible show of solidarity and inclusion.
- Invite Pride in Surrey to return to Godalming in 2026, with a commitment to work with local groups and businesses to host the parade and park event again.

Why This Matters:

Cllr Penny Rivers speaking in support of the motion, said:

"Events like Pride in Surrey are more than celebrations—they are lifelines. They bring visibility, support, and a sense of belonging to residents who often face isolation. Godalming is proud to stand for equality, especially when others step back."

Ends...

For more information on this release or images, please contact: Suzie Gortler

Email: community@godalming-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 01483 523075

Release Date: 18 August 2025

Follow us on:

