

HILLINGDON people

News from your council

www.hillingdon.gov.uk

March/April 2026



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your new facility

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HILLINGDON
LONDON

WEDNESDAY 8 - SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2026

PRODUCTIONS & HILLINGDON COUNCIL PRESENT

EASTER PANTO MADNESS!

Alice's adventures in Wonderland

COMPASS THEATRE, ICKENHAM
BOX OFFICE 01895 250615
DISCOVER.HILLINGDON.GOV.UK/THEATRES

SCAN ME

On the cover: Keely, Matthew, Gavin and Bo, part of the GLL team.

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Friday 8 May

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For a copy in large print or as an audio version call 01895 556903

Easter and May Bank Holidays 2026

WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

To minimise disruption to waste and recycling collections over Easter and the May Bank Holidays, we will be working on Saturdays 4 and 11 April and 9 and 30 May.

This will enable collections to return to normal as quickly as possible.

Easter	
Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 3 April (Good Friday)	Saturday 4 April
Monday 6 April (Easter Monday)	Tuesday 7 April
Tuesday 7 April	Wednesday 8 April
Wednesday 8 April	Thursday 9 April
Thursday 9 April	Friday 10 April
Friday 10 April	Saturday 11 April

Early May Bank Holiday	
Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 4 May (Bank Holiday)	Tuesday 5 May
Tuesday 5 May	Wednesday 6 May
Wednesday 6 May	Thursday 7 May
Thursday 7 May	Friday 8 May
Friday 8 May	Saturday 9 May

Late May Bank Holiday	
Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 25 May (Bank Holiday)	Tuesday 26 May
Tuesday 26 May	Wednesday 27 May
Wednesday 27 May	Thursday 28 May
Thursday 28 May	Friday 29 May
Friday 29 May	Saturday 30 May

Please leave your waste and recycling out by 6am on the day of collection by your front gate but not on the pavement. Separate arrangements are in place for flats and business premises.



www.hillingdon.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling

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We've aligned stories in this magazine to our Council Strategy to keep you updated on our progress. Below is a key to explain the graphics.



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Welcome



Last month, the council approved its 2026/27 budget, which despite ongoing unprecedented funding constraints, prioritises residents by protecting and modernising frontline services, keeping council tax lower than neighbouring authorities and more than £300 cheaper than the national average, while maintaining exceptional standards of delivery. While it was pleasing that government acknowledged that Hillingdon has been underfunded for many years, their mechanism of phasing in additional grant funding across three years is disappointing.

It means that funding we're assessed as needing – up to the tune of £65 million – will be delayed across the first two years, while bizarrely some councils assessed as requiring less funding will be given transitional support – an unjustified transfer of our residents' money. This leaves the council with a funding gap which will need to be plugged with Exceptional Financial Support.

We will also continue to lobby government to request they fully fund the cost of asylum and Chagossian pressures instead of these falling to the council, and by extension residents. You can read more about this on page 9.

Continuing with the theme of protection, the council is committed to protecting Hillingdon's heritage, built environment and valued green spaces, and we recently responded to two government consultations condemning the proposed changes to national and London-wide planning legislation which could threaten our communities and green spaces with inappropriate and imposed development. For more details, see page 18.

Last month, I was proud to congratulate this year's Hillingdon Community Award unsung heroes (see more on pages 13 to 15). It's truly inspiring to see the outstanding voluntary work carried out by residents and local organisations to better the lives of others. Well done everyone!

We were also delighted to formally complete our brand-new Platinum Jubilee Leisure Centre in West Drayton. This new state-of-the-art facility, highlighted on pages 16 to 17, is a fantastic addition to our extensive health and fitness offer, and we look forward to welcoming residents when it opens – keep an eye out for the free taster sessions offered by our operating partner GLL.

Cllr Ian Edwards, Leader of the Council

Hayes pub owner fined more than £11,500 for planning breach

The director of a Hayes pub has been ordered to pay £11,518 after repeatedly ignoring council requests to remove a wooden canopy which was built alongside the building without planning permission.

Sarvdeep Singh, director of Great Western Pubs PVT Ltd, which leases The Great Western public house in Dawley Road, admitted breaching a planning notice when he appeared at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 27 January.

The council's planning enforcement team visited the site in June 2023 following a tip-off, and discovered a wooden, flat-roofed structure had been erected at the side of the pub without permission (pictured above). The council sent letters the following day, explaining the owners must remove the structure or apply to keep it.

Three retrospective planning applications were submitted between July and November



2023, all of which were refused due to concerns about increased noise and disturbance late into the evening. An appeal to the Planning Inspectorate was also dismissed in December 2024.

A planning enforcement notice was served in May 2024, requiring the structure's removal by August 2024. A later site visit confirmed this had not been done.

Cllr Steve Tuckwell, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Growth, said: "Planning legislation may seem like frustrating red tape, but it plays a vitally important role in ensuring

all developments meet the same, specific, requirements which are there to ensure safety, quality, and protect and preserve local communities."

Singh was fined £4,000 for the breach and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £1,600 and the council's prosecution costs of £5,918.

Report a planning breach:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/report-planning-breach



Council support costs refunded with future funding unclear

The council has successfully lobbied government to refund the cost of supporting arrivals of Chagossian UK nationals in 2024/25 but is calling for clarity on how this will be funded this financial year and in the future.

Many families arrive via Heathrow Airport without onward travel plans and require housing support, which the council provides as part of its statutory responsibilities.

In the 2024/25 financial year, 53 families and 184 individuals arrived, requiring support at a cost of more than £500,000 to the council.

The one-off grant funding received from the government will largely cover these costs, following

repeated requests from the council for recognition of the pressures and costs it faces as a port authority.

Previously, the council had only been able to claim reimbursement for its costs for the first 10 days after their arrival.

Future funding, however, remains uncertain, with the cost to the council of supporting Chagossian arrivals expected to rise to around £2.6 million this financial year.

No indication has been given yet of when the council will be able to submit a claim for a refund of its costs this year, or any guarantee that the money will be reimbursed promptly. Since 1 April 2025, the council has supported a further 143 families and 553 individuals.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Ian Edwards, said: "While the funding we have received is welcome, our residents have effectively had to cover this national responsibility and then wait months for reimbursement from the government.

"This remains an unfair, tax-like levy on Hillingdon residents that should have never been placed on our communities. It adds to the council's existing pressures, alongside asylum, at a time when demand for services is also high.

"The government must rethink how it funds this responsibility, properly recognise the challenges we face as a port authority, and provide the necessary funding promptly."



Anniversary banners presented to the RAF

Last month, the council gifted RAF Northolt's 600 Squadron two of its commemorative Battle of Britain lamppost banners to be displayed in their entrance hall, reflecting the borough's continued relationship with the station and support for its Armed Forces.

They were presented to Squadron Leader Alisa Rebbeck, on Wednesday 11 February by the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Philip Corthorne, in the Mayor's Parlour at the Civic Centre, Uxbridge.

The banners have been on display across the borough since September as part of the council's commemorations to mark the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Cllr Corthorne said: "Hillingdon has a proud and long-standing relationship with the Royal Air Force, and the Battle of Britain remains a defining chapter in our nation's history.

"It is fitting that these banners are now shared with 600 Squadron as a lasting symbol of this heritage and of the borough's continued support for our Armed Forces."

A dedicated exhibition for the 85th anniversary remains on display at the Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre in Uxbridge.

Book your bunker visit:

battleofbritainbunker.co.uk



Vote in the upcoming local elections

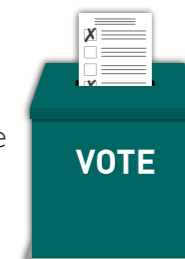
Hillingdon's local elections take place on Thursday 7 May, and you must be on the electoral register to vote and have your voice heard.

Every eligible resident is responsible for their own registration and the deadline to ensure you are on the electoral register is midnight on Monday 20 April.

If you have recently moved into Hillingdon, changed address within the borough or just turned 18, visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote to register online. If you are unsure if you're on the register, call 01895 250251.

On election day, you can vote in person at a polling station between 7am and 10pm, where you will need to show a form of photo ID.

Accepted forms include passports, driving licences, eligible travel passes, Blue Badges and PASS cards. Only original documents are accepted; photos of your ID, copies or digital



versions saved on phones and smart devices will not be accepted (except for Veterans Cards).

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate before

5pm on Tuesday 28 April. You must already be registered to vote. Find out more at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/voter-id.

You can also register to vote by post and the deadline is 5pm on Tuesday 21 April. Ballot papers will be sent out from Tuesday 28 April and you have until 10pm on the day of the election to return it to us.

If you would like someone to vote on your behalf, you have until 5pm on Tuesday 28 April to apply to vote by proxy.

For more on elections:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/vote



Warm spaces support winter wellbeing

Once again, the council partnered with community organisations to provide warm welcome centres across the borough, giving residents a friendly space to stay warm, enjoy a hot drink, and connect with others during the colder months.

Based in churches, leisure centres, community centres and libraries, they hosted coffee mornings, board games, arts and crafts, book clubs and gentle exercise classes, alongside health and wellbeing advice.

Madan Sharda, from Hayes (pictured above right), said that the centre gave him companionship after losing his wife: "I live alone and I don't go to pubs or clubs. It's a good service and they treat you like friends."



During winter 2024/25, more than 8,000 visits were made to centres across Hillingdon by 547 residents.

Cllr Jane Palmer, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, said: "Our warm welcome centres have again played an important role in supporting residents through the colder months, helping them stay active, connected and supported as part of our wider winter support initiatives."



Watch out for parking scams

The council has received reports of people posing as parking Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) in the borough and attempting to clone bank cards by asking motorists to pay an on-the-spot fine using a card reader.

Residents are reminded that the council's CEOs (traffic wardens) wear a green uniform with Hillingdon and APCOA logos and ID numbers displayed on their shoulders (pictured above). Please note that APCOA environmental enforcement officers wear black uniforms.

Legitimate CEOs will never ask for payment at the roadside or for personal details to register the use of a Blue Badge.

If you are approached by someone you believe to be a scammer, or if you witness an incident, call 999 immediately.

If you've lost money or provided personal information as a result of a scam, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud by visiting actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

In addition, the council does not use QR codes for payment at its car parks, and residents are encouraged to download the PayByPhone app to their mobile.

For more on parking:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/parking



Improving children's oral health outcomes

In the past year, the council supported more than 3,700 families to look after their children's teeth, hosting more than 700 sessions providing information, advice and fun activities.

Support is delivered year-round through children's centres, family hubs and community venues.

The sessions focus on brushing twice a day, reducing sugary food and drinks, and moving children from bottles to cups to reduce the risk of tooth decay. Families can also access Brush for Life sessions, Bottle to Cup workshops and one-to-one support.

All children receive a toothbrush and toothpaste pack, and families are supported to register with an NHS dentist through the Targeted Dental Access for Children project.



Craft session at Yeading Children's Centre

New initiatives include sensory-friendly workshops for children with additional needs, healthy food sessions for families, tooth fairy parties and toothbrushing-themed storytimes in children's centres.

Find your nearest session:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/cc-services



Cycling Strategy delivers early results

A year after its launch, the council has reviewed progress against the ambitions set out in its Cycling Strategy, with significant advances made in delivering both infrastructure improvements and training programmes.

The strategy sets out a 10-year vision for improving safety and access for cycling across the borough. Since its launch in September 2024, 1,103 children have completed Bikeability Level 2 through the council's outreach programme in local schools. Nine of these schools have also received grants to install dedicated cycle parking.

Alongside this, 58 adults have taken part in free cycle skills training, while 17 free 'Dr Bike' repair sessions have been held across Hillingdon.

Several infrastructure projects are now underway, including design work on a new cycleway between West Drayton and Brunel



University London, upgrades to the towpath of the Grand Union Canal in Uxbridge, and improvements to canal access points in Cowley and Yiewsley.

Safety enhancements for cyclists at the Stockley Road roundabout are currently being implemented, and initial design work has begun for improvements to the cycleway alongside the A312 Parkway.

Read the strategy:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/cycling



Keeping local communities safe from harm

On Thursday 26 February, the council approved the Safer Hillingdon Partnership's Community Safety Strategy 2026-2029, which sets out how the borough will tackle crime, keep residents safe, and support victims.

It was shaped by your feedback, with more than 770 residents and businesses responding to a survey in April 2025 providing their views on what its priority areas should be.

Last summer, the partnership created a draft strategy focusing on four key areas:

- safer neighbourhoods and perceptions of crime
- preventing violence against women and girls
- reducing violent incidents
- preventing harm and safeguarding communities.

Residents and businesses were then asked to provide

feedback on the draft at the end of 2025. Police visibility, visibility of enforcement for anti-social behaviour (ASB) and low-level crime, safety for women and girls, improved lighting and CCTV were raised as considerations.

In response, the final strategy includes strengthened commitments to joint council and police operations in hotspot areas, targeted environmental and CCTV improvements, and clearer performance measures to track progress.

Cllr Wayne Bridges, Cabinet Member for Community and Environment, said: "We are pleased to adopt this strategy, which will further improve co-ordination across all organisations responsible for reducing crime and ASB to ensure we create safer, stronger and more resilient communities."



The Safer Hillingdon Partnership is a multi-agency group which collectively addresses local crime and safety issues and includes the council, Metropolitan Police Service, London Fire Brigade, National Probation Service, Integrated Care Board and Safer Neighbourhood Board.

Read the strategy:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/safer-hillingdon-partnership



New Houses in Multiple Occupation licensing to be introduced

The council has approved a new boroughwide additional licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), increasing its powers to scrutinise landlords, improve housing conditions, tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and protect communities.

Cabinet agreed to adopt the scheme on Thursday 19 February, following a 10-week public consultation held between 31 October and 11 January which received more than 1,000 responses, with 80 per cent backing its introduction.

Respondents highlighted concerns about inadequate housing conditions, ASB and inconsistent management standards in some HMOs.

The new scheme requires landlords of shared properties with fewer than five residents from two or more households

to meet new licensing conditions covering safety, property standards, and effective management.

Licences will be issued for a five-year period and cost £1,401, with a 10 per cent reduction for accredited landlords.

The council already operates a mandatory licensing scheme for large HMOs, which are properties occupied by five or more residents from two or more households sharing bathroom or kitchen facilities.

The scheme can legally only come into force three months after the date of approval. Applications will open on Wednesday 20 May, with full compliance required by Sunday 23 August.

The additional licensing scheme will work in conjunction with the boroughwide Article 4 Direction,

introduced in December, which requires planning permission to be obtained before a family home can be converted into an HMO.

Cllr Steve Tuckwell, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Growth, said: "Residents have been clear, they are tired of communities being impacted by poorly managed HMOs and that is why we are taking co-ordinated and comprehensive action to introduce these new measures."

"Boroughwide licensing gives us the power to hold landlords accountable, protect tenants from poor housing conditions, and safeguard our neighbourhoods from ASB."

Find out more:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/additional-hmo-licence



A simpler, faster and more convenient way to report local issues

As part of the council's Digital Improvement Strategy, our website is being enhanced and new digital tools are being introduced to modernise how residents and businesses access services – with users required to re-register for our upgraded My Account this month.

In line with data protection regulations (GDPR), from Tuesday 24 March all existing users must create a new account to continue reporting local issues at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/myaccount.

Benefits of the enhanced My Account include a clearer, more user-friendly layout, automatic saving of your progress when filling in forms, and greater control over your personal data.

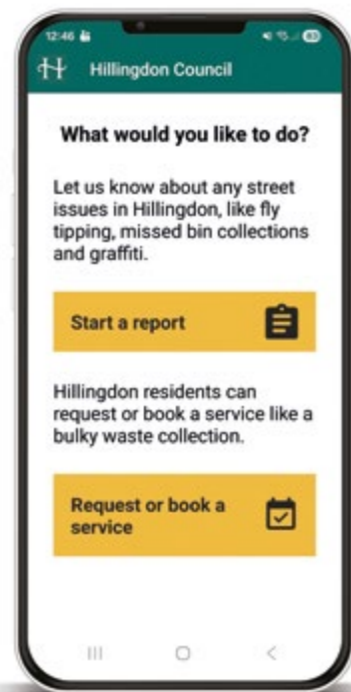
Alongside the upgraded My Account platform, the council will soon be launching Love Clean Streets – a new, easy-to-use digital app that will

enable residents and businesses to report environmental issues while on the go.

Integrated with My Account and the new council website, it will allow you to report litter and fly-tipping, potholes, faulty street lighting, damaged street furniture, issues in parks and open spaces, and overgrown shrubs and grass.

It will be available on both smartphones and tablets, providing a single, streamlined service. Once an issue is reported, it will be automatically directed to the relevant council team. Reports will still be able to be submitted using a laptop, desktop PC or any other internet-enabled device through the council's website.

Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation, said: "By utilising new technology, we are continuing to deliver better, more



efficient services, while giving our residents the tools they need to help tackle local issues and keep our communities clean."

Harlington takeaway owners fined for food safety breaches

A husband and wife operating an Indian and Pakistani takeaway business have been ordered to pay £24,122 after a council investigation discovered dirty premises, dangerous food handling and serious failings in its control of allergens all posing a significant health risk to customers.

Mohammad Siddiqui, 65, and Ayesha Siddiqui, 52, of Manse Close, Harlington, directors of Ladla Babu Ltd, trading as Holy Zam Zam 4, 226 High Street Harlington, Hayes (which has since closed), pleaded guilty to eight offences in breach of the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013, and the Food Safety Act 1990, at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 17 February.

Mohammad was fined £1,404 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £562 and £3,358



towards the council's prosecution costs. Ayesha was fined £1,487 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £595 and £3,358 towards the council's prosecution costs.

Their company, Ladla Babu Ltd, of which they are both directors, was fined £8,000, and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £2,000 and £3,358 towards the council's prosecution costs.

The business had ongoing hygiene issues and in 2024 was placed on a schedule of routine yearly inspections until it was able to demonstrate improved compliance.

During a visit on 20 January 2025, officers found the kitchen and equipment covered in grime, cross-contamination risks, unlabelled food from unverified suppliers (pictured left) and a damaged walk-in fridge that posed an entrapment risk. Staff were also unable to demonstrate safe cooking practices and gave incorrect allergen information.

Improvement notices were issued but, during an unannounced follow-up in April of that year, officers found standards had not improved. The business has since closed.

Read the full story at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/news.

Report a food hygiene problem:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/food-hygiene



Delivering value for money despite funding constraints

On Thursday 26 February, the council approved its annual budget, setting out a balanced, forward-looking plan despite some of the toughest financial pressures local government has faced in decades.

The council continues to prioritise residents by protecting and modernising excellent frontline services, while keeping council tax lower than neighbouring authorities and more than £300 below the national average.

The 2026/27 budget reflects disciplined financial management, a strong plan for the future, and a relentless focus on value for money.

During the past decade, our population has grown by more than 10 per cent, increasing demand for adult and children's social care and housing support. These challenges have been intensified by high inflation and market volatility, while government funding has not kept pace. The borough also faces unique pressures linked to Heathrow Airport, including asylum costs, anti-social behaviour and illegal

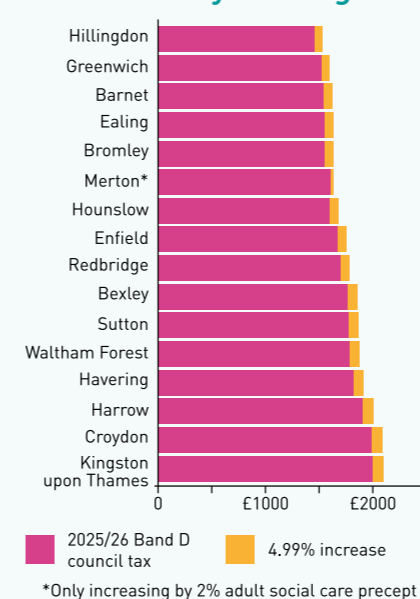
parking for which the council does not receive adequate funding.

The council has consistently challenged this underfunding. The recent new funding settlement recognises Hillingdon has been under-resourced for many years and will receive fairer funding in the future. However, because the uplift is being phased across three years, the borough will receive £65 million less than its assessed need during the next two years. Full funding will not arrive until 2028/29, leaving a significant short-term gap. To manage this responsibly, the council has had to account for this in its application for Exceptional Financial Support.

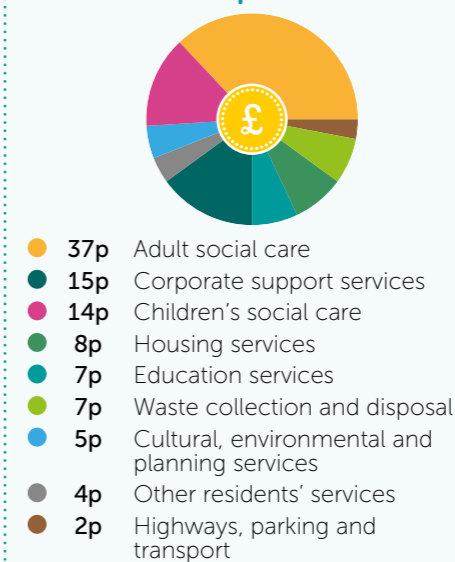
Investing in services

Between 2026/27 and 2030/31, up to £268.5 million will be invested in services and facilities, alongside £519.4 million for regeneration and housing.

Value for money in Hillingdon



How will every £1 of your council tax be spent in 2026/27?



Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation

said: "The council has shown leadership through a decade of underfunding while keeping taxes low and delivering first class services.

"Although the Funding Review validates the council's long-standing concerns, delayed funding leaves major pressures unresolved, including the continued underfunding of asylum and Chagosian costs which places an unfair multi-million-pound tax-like burden on residents."

Keeping council tax low

For 2026/27, council tax will rise by 2.99 per cent, with an additional 2 per cent adult social care precept.

This sets Band D at £1,534.95 – an increase of £1.40 per week – still lower than neighbouring authorities and well below the national average.

Struggling to pay your council tax? For details on discounts and reductions, pension credit and how to seek further assistance, take a look at our council tax guide at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/council-tax-guide.

Find out more and sign up for e-billing:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax



A digital-enabled, modern, well-run council

Reflecting on our achievements

The council delivers more than 800 services for residents each year, here's a snapshot of how we continued to put residents first in 2025/26.

2025/26 timeline

APR 25



Uxbridge Library reopens at the Civic Centre

SEP 25

Plans approved to redevelop properties in Haydon Drive, Northwood Hills, to create **21 family-sized homes**.

OCT 25



The Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre marks 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

JAN 26



Pilot Pop-Up Waste Drop collection service launches

FEB 26



Phase one of our Hayes Town Centre redevelopment project completes, providing **80 new homes for residents**.



Work begins at Yiewsley to deliver **95 homes** (100 per cent affordable) and a new library.



Regulator for Social Housing gave our housing service a **positive C2 grading**.



Completed 6 new residential homes for local children



30 affordable homes complete on the Avondale Drive Estate, Hayes



Adoption of a **boroughwide Article 4 Direction** to tackle overcrowded HMOs and unsafe, unlicensed properties. Extra licensing will be introduced this summer.



Adoption of a **boroughwide Article 4 Direction** to tackle overcrowded HMOs and unsafe, unlicensed properties. Extra licensing will be introduced this summer.



plus...



Adopted the Uxbridge Town Centre Vision to strengthen the local economy.

Completed 6 new residential homes for local children

30 affordable homes complete on the Avondale Drive Estate, Hayes

New Hillingdon Museum and Archives Service opens at the Civic Centre.

Formal completion of our new Platinum Jubilee Leisure Centre, West Drayton

Building new homes and safe and strong communities



Acquired 210 properties for local people, with 40 more on the way

- ▶ **£14.1 million** invested to decarbonise **320** council homes.
- ▶ Installed new kitchens, bathrooms and windows at **more than 1,000** properties.
- ▶ **907 families** were helped to avoid homelessness.
- ▶ **5 closure orders** issued for tenants' properties to prevent anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.

- ▶ Since its introduction last year, our Public Spaces Protection Order preventing taxis from waiting near Heathrow, has resulted in **7,844 fines**.
- ▶ **2** landlords were **fined more than £270,000** for illegally converting a house into flats.
- ▶ Carried out **more than 40** community action days.
- ▶ Our counter fraud team **recovered £10.8 million**.
- ▶ **35** residents and organisations received Community Awards.
- ▶ **£250,000** Chrysalis funding improved **5 community facilities**, and ward budgets supported **27 local initiatives**.
- ▶ **Borough's Diamond Jubilee** brought residents together at the Mayor's Picnic in the Park.

Fostering thriving, healthy households



Expanded support for children with SEND, delivering new facilities at Meadow High School

- ▶ Launched our **first Age-Friendly Festival** to signpost support.
- ▶ Partnered with community organisations to **provide warm welcome centres** across the borough.
- ▶ Since the launch of our **Hillingdon Youth Offer**, **56% more** children and young people are accessing the universal programme.

Creating a greener future

- ▶ **Decarbonised** Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex, Winston Churchill Theatre and Highgrove Pool and Fitness Centre.
- ▶ Partnered with **5** boroughs to procure new on-street electric vehicle charging points.
- ▶ Invested in new technology to make road repairs faster and more efficient and were **1 of only 2** London councils to receive the highest rating from government for road maintenance.



7 new street sweeping machines, named by residents, introduced

- ▶ **3,742 trees** planted.
- ▶ Improvements made to **6 school travel routes**.

Delivering value for money services

- ▶ Opened **2 new ceremony rooms** at the Civic Centre.
- ▶ Launched a **refreshed website**.
- ▶ **Commissioned specialist operators** to run services more sustainably, including our early years centres and two golf courses.



Purchased a new care facility to secure local provision and reduce private provider costs

Investing in Hillingdon to create a thriving economy

- ▶ Secured **£1.1 million UKSPF funding** to make improvements to town centres and supported **169** businesses to grow and **168** residents to learn new skills.
- ▶ Held our **second Old Vinyl Factory Festival** welcoming more than **1,600** people.
- ▶ Joined the **West London Economic Prosperity Board** to drive growth and innovation.



Our adult education service, which was rated 'good' by Ofsted, delivered 423 adult learning courses

See more and watch our video: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/council-achievements



Stories, community and connection

In April, Uxbridge Library celebrates a year in its new Civic Centre home, a vibrant space for reading, learning and creativity – while its former High Street site begins a new chapter as part of Buckingham New University.

Since relocating, the library has welcomed more than 3,500 new members and issued or renewed more than 86,600 books and other items.

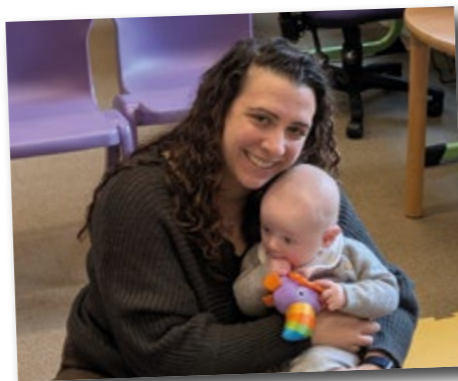
Bright, welcoming, and full of life, it has quickly become more than just a place to borrow books. With a dedicated children's section, study spaces, laptop bars, an exhibition area, and learning centre, there's a corner for everyone.

Our ever-popular Tiny Tales children's story sessions continue to delight and inspire, welcoming more than 1,550 parents and children since April 2025 to share in the magic of storytelling. Held twice on Thursdays and once on Fridays, these sessions introduce young children to books, helping them build confidence and boost literacy skills.

Monthly author events continue to spark lively discussion and bring the community together. Recent sessions have ranged from examining the infamous

Profumo Affair – with its local connection to Uxbridge-born Christine Keeler – to reflecting on the moving story of the Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz, commemorating January's Holocaust Memorial Day.

Across the week, the library hosts activities for all ages. Family Board Games sessions on Saturdays bring generations together over classic games, while a Chess Club for adults meets on Mondays.



Once Upon a Bump, held on Tuesdays, supports new and expectant parents with informal chats, toys and songs. **Marta Pardo from West Drayton** (pictured above) has been coming along since her son Robert was five weeks old. She said: "It's a safe space for new parents and Trisha, who runs the group, is fantastic! It gets us out of the house and is a lovely thing to do in the afternoon."



A talk to mark Holocaust Memorial Day

Cllr Wayne Bridges, Cabinet Member for Community and Environment, said: "In its first year, the new Uxbridge Library has been embraced by residents of all ages – whether it's families exploring stories, adults gathering for learning, or children discovering creativity, it has become a welcoming space for everyone.

"At the same time, the former library building is beginning a new chapter as part of Buckinghamshire New University, ensuring its longstanding role in education and learning continues to benefit the community."

Positioned alongside the new Museum and Archives Service, Uxbridge Family Hub and Uxbridge Adult Education Centre, the library reflects the council's wider strategy of co-locating services as part of a campus to improve access and deliver value for money for residents.

Continuing a legacy of learning

Last month, the council completed the sale of the former Uxbridge Library building to Buckinghamshire New University (BNU), ensuring the Grade II listed High Street site continues its long-standing educational role.

The university plans to refurbish the building as its Uxbridge campus, offering courses primarily in health, business and digital subjects, alongside a ground-floor café for students. The sale supports the council's Uxbridge Town Centre Vision, bringing increased footfall and activity to the High Street while generating income for the council.



Cllr Bianco with Jermaine Ravalier, BNU's Pro Vice Chancellor, Academic

Find out more:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/uxbridgelibrary



+ Thriving, healthy households

Shining a light on the borough's dedicated and unsung heroes

Last month, the exceptional commitment of local volunteers who give their time to support and strengthen their communities was recognised at the 2026 Hillingdon Community Awards. *Hillingdon People* highlights their inspiring accomplishments.

The ceremony, which was kindly sponsored by J McCann & Co Limited and Heathrow Airport Limited, took place at the Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre, Uxbridge on Tuesday 10 February, recognising individuals and groups who are making a difference across the borough.

This year, the council received 212 nominations, with 21 winners

selected across four categories:

- Helping Communities;
- Helping Vulnerable People;
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing;
- and Bravery.

Awards were presented to the winners by the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Philip Corthorne; Leader of the Council, Cllr Ian Edwards; and Chief Executive, Tony Zaman.



Cllr Corthorne, Tracie Tunstall, Cllr Edwards and Tony Zaman

Leader of the Council, Cllr Ian Edwards, said: These awards recognise the very best of our borough and reflect the strong sense of community that defines it.

"I offer my sincere thanks to these individuals and groups for their continued commitment and hard work, which have made a meaningful difference to the lives of so many residents."

Transforming lives through compassion and care

For more than 25 years, **Linda Roberts** has been a dedicated volunteer for Hillingdon Mind, supporting hundreds of local people living with mental health challenges. She leads peer groups with warmth and skill, ensuring quieter voices are heard and creating safe, welcoming spaces where everyone feels supported.

Linda runs weekly sessions, including a women's group at St Andrew's Church, Uxbridge and a walking group which takes place come rain or shine (pictured below).

Her care extends beyond scheduled sessions – checking in on those struggling, accompanying people to appointments, and mentoring new facilitators.

She said: "I've had my own mental health challenges, and I've seen how being with like-minded people makes a huge difference. If you are struggling, don't be afraid to reach out – we are here to help."

Find out more at www.mindinhilligdon.org.uk.





Championing support for residents living with hearing loss

Ann Sargent has spent the past 18 years supporting people with hearing loss through her charity, EAR4U. She provides practical support, reassurance, and guidance to those navigating life with a hearing impairment.

She volunteers alongside surgeons and audiologists, supporting patients considering bone-anchored hearing aids, and offers first-hand insight as a user herself. Ann also advocates for adults with learning disabilities and people with hearing loss, including accompanying individuals to their medical appointments.

Ann runs a weekly drop-in every Monday at Manor Farm Library, Ruislip, from 10am to 1pm, and works with local schools and community groups to promote hearing health.

She said: "No one should face hearing loss alone. I'm passionate



about making sure people get the support they need to lead full lives."

Find out more at www.ear4u.co.uk.

Building a vibrant and welcoming South Ruislip

Elaine Haynes has dedicated more than 40 years to improving her community, making South Ruislip a safer, greener, and more welcoming place for everyone. As a passionate member of the South Ruislip

Residents' Association (SRRA), she has led initiatives to maintain and enhance local parks, open spaces, and play areas.

Elaine keeps a close eye on Stonefield Park, ensuring it stays tidy, reporting issues, watering trees during dry spells, and maintaining the community noticeboard. Thanks to her dedication, hundreds of daffodils, snowdrops, and 25 trees now brighten the park, while play areas and outdoor exercise equipment provide spaces for children and adults to enjoy. She also supports creative projects at the local library and works with the police to help keep the community safe.

Elaine said: "I've always wanted to help my community. Seeing families enjoy the park, children playing safely, and the community coming together makes all the years of volunteering worthwhile."



A SRRA meeting at South Ruislip Library

Creating unforgettable holidays for children

ORCHYD is a local charity providing residential holidays for physically disabled children.

Corrie Irwin, Trustee and Chair of the Holiday Management Committee

has been volunteering for more than 25 years and has been central to delivering these life-changing experiences.

Each August, ORCHYD runs a 10-day residential summer holiday, alongside weekends and day trips throughout the year. Using specially adapted minibuses, children are taken on adventures to places such as Gulliver's Land and Odds Farm, and they even get to go camping.

The charity is run entirely by volunteers with around 150 people actively involved each year, from trustees to medical staff, drivers and caterers, all dedicated to creating safe, joyful experiences.

Corrie said: "What motivates me is the passion of everyone involved. We are all driven by the desire to make a real difference and give children magical memories, while offering their families valuable respite."

Find out about volunteering at orchyd.org.uk.

Turning life experience into hope and positive change

Eddie McGinty grew up in West Drayton and was sent to Feltham Prison at the age of 15. His early life involved crime, addiction, and serious mental health challenges. Today, Eddie has transformed his life and now owns several successful local businesses.

Driven by his lived experience, Eddie regularly visits schools and prisons, speaking openly and honestly about his past. He doesn't sugar-coat the reality of prison or the consequences of crime, sharing both his own story and the stories of friends who didn't escape that life.

Eddie delivers these talks free of charge, motivated by a desire to stop young people from going down the same path. His



message is simple but powerful: change is possible.

He said: "If I can change, so can anyone. A life of crime only ends in misery, and if telling the truth changes even one person's life, it's worth it."

Promoting health and confidence through running

For more than 20 years, **Hayes & Harlington Road Runners** has supported residents to improve their health and wellbeing through inclusive Couch to 5K programmes, delivered twice a year in partnership with the council's Healthy Hillingdon scheme. The free eight-week courses help participants progress safely towards completing a 5K parkrun at Stockley Park.

Led by qualified England Athletics coaches, the sessions welcome people of all backgrounds and abilities, many new to organised exercise. Participants report improved fitness, confidence and

mental wellbeing, as well as lasting friendships and a strong sense of belonging.

Secretary Mike Harper said: "It's about getting the community involved. We don't turn anyone away, and during the eight weeks it's incredibly rewarding to see people coming back each week, growing in confidence and enjoying being active. Our members get just as much out of helping as the participants do."

Find out more at www.hhroadrunners.run. The next Couch to 5K programmes start in September and October.



An inspiring story of courage, determination and generosity

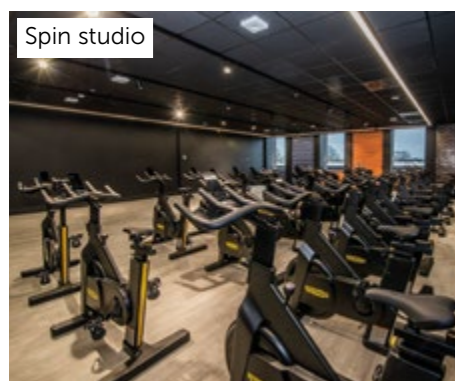
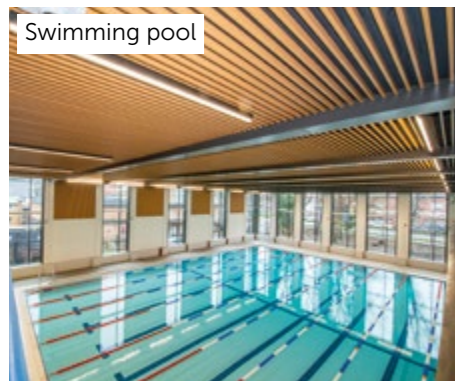
Jack Edwards, born with a chromosome deletion, has faced significant neurological and physical challenges, yet his determination and energy inspire everyone he meets. He volunteers extensively, coaching disability football and supporting organisations, including Hillingdon Athletic Club, Lowlands Tennis Club, Uxbridge Football Club, and the Lido Railway, dedicating more than 30 hours a week to helping others.

Through sport and community work, Jack motivates people to build confidence, stay active, and overcome personal challenges. He has raised thousands of pounds for charities, including completing a 'lap around the world' challenge. Despite the tragic loss of his mother and uncle to Motor Neurone Disease, Jack continues to give back and support others, living by his mother's words: "You can achieve great things in life if you believe."

Jack said: "Receiving this award means everything to me. I dedicate this honour to my mum, uncle, and everyone who's encouraged me."

View all the winners and find out more: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/community-awards





New state-of-the-art leisure centre revealed

The Platinum Jubilee Leisure Centre, the council's fifth sports centre, has completed in West Drayton, offering residents high quality facilities at an affordable cost.

Located on Rowlheys Place, it features striking brickwork, sweeping floor-to-ceiling windows and a large, welcoming entrance, offering residents of all ages a modern space to stay active and lead healthy lifestyles.

Inside, the new facility boasts a range of exciting features, including an eight-lane, 25-metre training swimming pool, a teaching pool – the first in the borough – and a health and fitness suite with a steam and sauna cabin, as well as aerobics and spin studios.

There is also a two-level soft play area, sensory room, clip 'n' climb zone, large sports hall for activities such as basketball and racket sports, rooftop five-a-side 3G football pitch and a café.

Behind the scenes, the building is fitted with a range of advanced technologies to maximise energy efficiency, including solar panels and air source heat pumps on the roof which allow heat from outdoor air to be transferred indoors and distributed throughout the centre.

The council's family hubs network will also soon expand at the centre, providing a range of services for families with children and young people aged from birth to 19 years, and up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities.

A formal completion event took place on Thursday 5 February where the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Philip Corthorne, and Leader of the Council, Cllr Ian Edwards, unveiled a plaque ahead of the facility's handover to Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL), the council's longstanding leisure partner which will operate the centre.

They were joined by members of the council's Cabinet, representatives from GLL, ward councillors, and construction partners for tours of the building.

Watch the video:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/platinum-jubilee-leisure-centre



New leisure centre in numbers:

Splash and swim

- 25-metre, 8-lane swimming pool
- Teaching pool (13 metres by 9 metres)
- 32 metre-long flume – first in the borough
- 155 lockers in the changing village

Fitness and sports

- Health and fitness suite: 35 cardio machines, dumbbells up to 40kg
- Aerobics studio
- Spin studio with 25 spin bikes
- Sports hall with 4 badminton courts
- Steam room and a sauna cabin, which holds up to 12 people

Fun for all ages

- 9 clip 'n' climb challenges and 12 climbing lines (up to 8.9 metres)
- 2-level soft play area
- Sensory room

The building

- 6,488 square-metre building
- 50kva roof top solar panels
- 2 air-to-air heat pumps
- 135 car parking spaces
- £40 million investment in the local economy during construction

Cllr Wayne Bridges, Cabinet Member for Community and Environment, said: "The Platinum Jubilee Leisure Centre is a fantastic addition to the borough's sports and leisure venues and has lots of exciting new facilities to support residents of all ages and abilities to live healthy and active lives. "This project was delivered by council officers after the original construction partner went into liquidation, and we are very proud of this new facility. "With everything from sports and fitness to family services and fun activities all under one roof, it will be a real community hub. I encourage local residents to sign up for GLL's affordable memberships."

Free open weekend
This spring, GLL is hosting a free open weekend for residents to take part in activity taster sessions. For details, follow the centre at www.facebook.com/platinumjubileelc and www.instagram.com/platinumjubileelc.

Find out more:
www.better.org.uk/hillingdon

+ Thriving, healthy households



Safeguarding Hillingdon from inappropriate development

The council is calling on the government to reconsider its proposed changes to planning laws.

In December, the government published its draft revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for feedback. It sets out reforms for housing delivery, green belt policy, affordable housing, and the planning system, aimed at accelerating the creation of new homes, delivering economic growth and new jobs, while also simplifying planning processes.

The council responded, raising concerns and reaffirming its commitment to supporting well-planned, locally led sustainable development and delivering homes in the right places.

Concerns raised included:

- **the reintroduction of high mandatory housing targets,** which may be increased further by the Mayor of London to

accommodate the delivery of 880,000 new homes in the next decade. The proposed government policy changes risk opening the door to building many of these homes on green belt land if enough brownfield sites cannot be identified

- **default approval being introduced for housing developments within 800 metres of train and underground stations, including on green belt land**
- **Hillingdon being forced to accept overcrowded, high-density unsuitable development without proper local consultation.** Local planning powers could be stripped in favour of fast-tracked approvals by government and the Mayor of London.



The stalled St. Modwen development, Uxbridge

Cllr Steve Tuckwell, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Growth, said: "These proposals amount to a centralised power grab that prioritises developer interests over residents and we will continue to oppose the plans and take all necessary steps to defend our communities and green spaces.

"Our priority remains ensuring the delivery of much-needed affordable homes in the right places, working with developers to unlock stalled developments, and transforming brownfield land near our town centres."

Between November and January, the government also requested feedback on two proposals to support housebuilding in London.

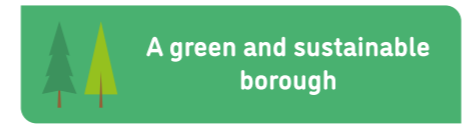
The first proposes to give eligible developments in Greater London temporary relief from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and the second seeks to make permanent changes to the Mayor of London's planning powers.

CIL, a charge set by local authorities on new development in their area, supports essential infrastructure such as schools, healthcare, and transport. Without this, it threatens overdevelopment without the services to support it.

Like the NPPF changes, the Mayor of London's new planning call-in powers could give him the ability to override local planning decisions, forcing the borough and outer London to absorb more development.

The council responded setting out its concerns that the changes could have significant impacts on its financial and decision-making powers and are not backed by clear evidence.

At its Full Council meeting on Thursday 22 January, the council unequivocally condemned the proposed changes to national and London-wide planning legislation and called on the borough's MPs to raise the council's objections in parliament to defend residents, communities, and green spaces from inappropriate and imposed development.



Keeping the borough moving

Hillingdon achieved the highest rating in the government's new highways maintenance assessment, reflecting the council's continued investment, innovative use of technology and strong performance.

In January, the borough was awarded the top 'green' rating in the Department for Transport's 'traffic light' assessment which measures how effectively councils use government funding to manage, maintain and improve their road networks.

Hillingdon was one of only two London boroughs and 16 local authorities nationally to receive the rating, highlighting strong management, value for money, and a clear focus on tackling issues such as potholes.

The council is responsible for more than 450 miles of roads, alongside pavements, bridges, culverts, drainage systems and street lighting.

This scale means investment must balance day-to-day repairs with long-term planning to ensure the network remains safe, resilient and fit for the future.



Smarter maintenance

The council has introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI)-supported road condition surveys to improve how maintenance needs are identified and prioritised.

Roads are categorised into three condition levels – green, amber and red – helping officers quickly identify where maintenance is needed most.

This supports more efficient planning and allows emerging issues to be addressed earlier.

Alongside planned works, the council continues to respond to potholes and defects identified through inspections and reports from residents. Preventative maintenance and improved repair techniques are also helping to extend the lifespan of repairs.

Hillingdon's highways in numbers

Each year, the council maintains:



33,000 gullies to prevent them from becoming blocked



24,000 street and subway lights



3,000 illuminated signs, bollards and zebra crossings

In 2025/26, the council:



resurfaced **10.5km** of roads



repaired **30km** of footways



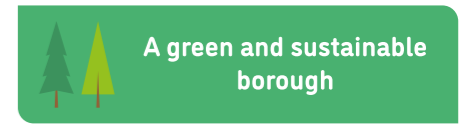
carried out maintenance on **5** bridges and structures



undertook **80** planned inspections of highway structures (such as bridges, retaining walls and culverts)

Cllr Steve Tuckwell, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Growth, said: "By combining investment with innovative approaches such as AI-led road condition surveys, we're transforming how we maintain Hillingdon's highways. This smarter, data-led approach allows us to identify issues earlier and prioritise the right works."

Find out more:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/roads-highways



Supporting young people to thrive

Since the launch of our new Hillingdon Youth Offer in February 2025, more young people than ever have been getting involved in the range of activities, support and services available.

To better meet their needs, the council adopted a more flexible approach to delivering youth services, using existing council buildings, family hubs and more street-based and outreach work. This way, services are closer to where young people are, making sure they can get the support they need.

The number of sessions delivered has increased, supporting young people's personal, social, and educational development while also enhancing their overall wellbeing. As a result, 56 per cent more children and young people are now accessing our universal sessions than in the year before the launch.



Creating safe and welcoming spaces

Throughout the year, children and young people have been able to meet friends, access support, take part in activities or simply talk to a youth worker in welcoming environments. These include our young people's centres, as well as outreach sessions held where they spend time, such as parks, libraries, near schools and food outlets.

This enables the team to engage with those who might not otherwise use youth services, helping them to access wider support and opportunities.

The past year has seen a focus on early help, prevention and wellbeing – youth workers have provided support with issues such as mental health, school pressures, friendships, identity and staying safe – as well as preparing for adulthood with volunteering and training opportunities.

Young people have also been involved in helping to shape the development of the offer, ensuring it's relevant, inclusive and youth led.

Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, said: "We relaunched our youth offer to make it more relevant and accessible for children and young people.

"I'm delighted we're now reaching even more young people, helping them to enjoy healthy, active and independent lives and feel heard, supported and empowered to reach their potential."

Follow us on TikTok

Stay up-to-date with the latest youth activities, events, and opportunities by following @NextGenHillingdon.

Find out more:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/youth-offer



Our youth offer in numbers

Since February 2025:

- **3,164** attendances at universal sessions
- **1,021** attendances at targeted support sessions
- **21,092** engagements through early intervention and education sessions delivered in educational settings
- a **47 per cent increase** in universal group sessions (607 pre-launch, 892 post-launch)
- **more than 9,500** targeted groupwork sessions and one-to-one interventions delivered.

What our young people say

I can manage my feelings of anger now and I feel better. I can also socialise more and sleep better.

Val, 13, from Hayes

I feel like this is a safe space. I have met new people that I like, and I feel like the staff care about me.

Keshia, 17, from Ruislip

Creating new homes for residents

The council recently marked two major housing construction milestones, which combined will deliver 200 high quality properties.

More local housing is being delivered for established residents by revitalising some of the borough's ageing housing estates and developing brownfield land near town centres.

First phase of Hayes estates completes

On Friday 30 January, the council celebrated the completion of the first phase of its Hayes estates redevelopment project.

The first block on Hayes Town Centre Estate, Seabrook Court, delivers 80 much-needed affordable homes and follows the opening of the first 30 homes on Avondale Drive Estate in October.

Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Property, and Cllr Steve Tuckwell, Cabinet Member for Planning,

Housing and Growth, visited the properties alongside, Declan Higgins, CEO of Higgins Group, the council's development partner and four tenants who will be moving in soon (pictured below).

Adan, who has lived on the estate for 20 years, said: "We're really excited by the development and to be moving into a property that better suits my family's needs.

"The new block already feels much brighter, and it will help the whole estate feel happier and healthier."

Once complete, the full redevelopment across both Hayes estates, which has been supported with funding from the Greater London Authority, will create 740 new homes (50 per cent affordable), along with upgraded community spaces and improvements to the public realm.



New homes for Yiewsley

Construction work is also continuing at pace on the 100 per cent affordable Yiewsley redevelopment project, which will create 95 homes for residents across two sites and an enhanced modern library.

Following the demolition of the old library building at Falling Lane, Cllr Bianco and Cllr Tuckwell visited the site on 30 January for a groundbreaking ceremony (pictured above), alongside representatives from Bugler Developments, who are undertaking the construction work.

Piling is currently underway, which will help prepare the site for the installation of the building's foundations.

While the new library is being built, the nearest alternative is nearby West Drayton which has extended its opening hours.

On the neighbouring Otterfield Road site (pictured below), brick and blockwork is underway which will form the outside of the building, and it is currently on track to be completed in early 2027.



Cllr Tuckwell said: "It's fantastic to see the first phase of our Hayes estates redevelopment completed. The project is enhancing the area to create modern, well-connected neighbourhoods, and providing new homes which better suit the needs of residents who have lived on the estate for many years.

"We also have a pipeline of affordable housing developments under construction and Yiewsley is a great example of how we are utilising brownfield land near our town centres to achieve this."



Building a stronger local economy

Last year, we secured £1.1 million from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to deliver projects across three key themes – supporting residents into work, helping local businesses grow, and enhancing our town centres.

The council is working with partners and specialist suppliers to deliver support to businesses and residents, helping them learn skills, access new opportunities and strengthen the local economy.

The current round of UKSPF funding builds on the £2.5 million already invested by the council in projects that enhance communities and boost economic growth.

Since April 2024, the council has used UKSPF funding to support:

- **509 businesses** to grow, scale and secure new contracts
- **509 residents** with new skills and training to gain employment
- **87 residents** into work as a direct result of support.

 **Funded by UK Government**



Empowering businesses

The council is continuing to champion local enterprises and has supported 169 businesses so far in 2025/26 with programmes designed to help them grow or secure new opportunities.

The GROWTH Hillingdon business support programme, delivered in partnership with Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce, provides small businesses, entrepreneurs and start-ups with a range of support, including one-to-one mentoring and workshops.

Hülya Erbeyli, a leadership coach, signed up for the programme after moving back to the UK and needing to rebuild



New opportunities

On Tuesday 9 December, the council hosted a refreshed 'Meet the Buyer' event at the Battle of Britain Bunker, Uxbridge, in partnership with MTW Consultants.

The session, which is part of a supplier readiness programme, saw more than 50 small and medium-sized businesses attend and use the opportunity to engage with larger businesses and organisations operating in the borough, with the aim of securing contracts.

Attendees had the chance to have one-to-one meetings with representatives from organisations such as Heathrow, Greyline, Mace and the council.

Alongside this, a practical workshop was held on Tuesday 20 January to help local businesses bid for contracts with local authorities and discover future opportunities.



Cllr Tuckwell with Faisal Shah, RESO Studios

her business. She said: "The programme helped me find my ground again. I don't think I'd be where I am now without it."

On Friday 5 December, mentors and mentees came together for an alumni event at the Leonardo Hotel London Heathrow Airport. Fifteen businesses received a certificate from Cllr Steve Tuckwell, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Growth for completing the programme.

Skills to succeed

The council is also supporting residents to learn new skills and find employment.

Supported by the Greater London Authority and delivered by Cultiv8, the employability support programme helps adults build skills, access jobs and training opportunities, overcome barriers, and prepare for interviews. So far in 2025/26 it has supported 168 residents and helped 42 secure a job.

Find out more about our business and employment support programmes, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/ukspf.



Celebrating local talent

On Thursday 29 January, Cllr Tuckwell attended the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2026, presenting Property/Construction Business of the Year to Livewell Architecture Ltd.

The annual ceremony celebrates the achievements, innovation, and excellence of local businesses, and recognises their contribution to Hillingdon's economic growth. There were 15 winners with one

crowned Hillingdon Business of the Year.

The council is working in partnership with the Chamber to help businesses and the local economy thrive.

Watch the video: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/chamber-commerce-awards



Cllr Tuckwell and Cecilia Lubbock from Livewell Architecture



Revitalising Uxbridge

Since formally adopting the Uxbridge Vision in July last year, the council has been progressing long-term plans and immediate improvements to enhance the town centre, which include:

- **Civic Centre forecourt transformation** – a planning application has been submitted to improve the site's design, creating an attractive space for markets and events.
- **Markets** – expanding and diversifying Uxbridge's markets, giving local people more opportunities to shop and for small retail businesses to grow.

- **St. Andrew's roundabout** – initial designs are underway to remove the underpass and replace the roundabout with a safer, more accessible junction.
- **Wayfinding** – developing clearer, better-designed signs and maps to help residents and visitors navigate the town centre.

Read more: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/uxbridge-vision



Enhancing Hayes

With the support of Greater London Authority funding and research by Brunel University London, the council is planning a range of improvements to make Hayes town centre and surrounding areas more welcoming and attractive to investment, including:

- **Public spaces** – exploring small, practical improvements that make the town centre more welcoming, such as better lighting or refreshed seating areas.
- **Access to the canal** – developing new designs to transform the canal-side area on Austin Road into a lively, accessible place, which residents will soon be invited to share their views on.
- **Old Vinyl Factory** – after two successful festivals, engaging



Last year's Old Vinyl Factory Festival

with the landowners to find a suitable location for a community space for events and activities.

- **A regeneration framework for Hayes** – working alongside a Hayes-based urban design team to develop a plan for the town centre to guide new development and drive investment.
- **Minet Country Park** – collaborating with residents to improve access and use of the park.

Cllr Tuckwell said: "We want to ensure we're providing residents and businesses with the tools and the right environment for growth and investment in our local economy."

"Our business and employability support programmes deliver practical support, opening up supply chains, building skills and boosting confidence."

"Meanwhile, our town centre improvements combine carefully considered long-term interventions with shorter-term activities that aim to attract more residents and visitors to our high streets."



A thriving economy

The first 'Pop-up Waste Drop' event at Charville Community Centre



Making it easier to recycle more

We are expanding our recycling collections to include flats in private blocks and above shops, while our free 'pop-up' collection service makes it even more convenient to dispose of unwanted items.

From Wednesday 1 April, the government's new 'Simpler Recycling' legislation requires all homes in the country to have access to dry mixed recycling and food waste collections.

Ahead of this, the council has been expanding its collections to flats.

Since January, we have installed 216 new food waste units across 174 blocks of flats at council housing estates. The rollout of a further 97 food waste units is due to be completed by the 1 April deadline.

From January, collections have also been extended to households

in privately-managed blocks, which will add around 900 more blocks – approximately 17,000 homes – by the end of March.

Food waste and new dry mixed recycling collections for flats above shops began in February, targeting a further 2,200 properties.



Cllr Bridges with one of the new food waste bins for flats

Are you recycling your leftovers?

Almost 70,000 houses in the borough are signed up to the council's weekly food waste collections, and we are encouraging more of you to join.

Recycling your leftovers is a positive step in helping to protect the environment. Did you know that after we collect your food waste, it's taken to special anaerobic digestion plants, where it is turned into fertiliser for local farms and energy for the national grid? A byproduct of the process is biogas, which is produced and then used to power homes and businesses.

On signing up, the council provides all you need to get started, including an indoor caddy, outdoor food waste bin and a roll



A food waste recycling kit

of caddy liners. Simply line your caddy, fill it with leftovers and empty it into your outdoor food waste bin, which you put out on your regular collection day.

Sign up for food waste collections:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/food-waste



Convenient, community collections

To make it even easier for residents to dispose of unwanted household items and bulky waste, the council has launched a pilot 'Pop-Up Waste Drop' service.

The initiative visits various locations across the borough each fortnight, allowing residents, particularly those with limited mobility or vehicle access, to drop off unwanted items for free near to their homes.

In total, 4.4 tonnes of waste was collected at the first two sessions at Charville Community Centre, Hayes and the Battle of Britain Bunker, Uxbridge.

Nadia Hewitt, from Hayes, was one of the first to visit the Charville session.

She said: "I had some large cardboard boxes I had to get rid of. It's an absolutely fantastic idea, I hope [the council] does this more often."

"I have to go all the way to Harefield, which I do quite regularly, to dump my waste."

Trevor Burke, also paid Charville Community Centre a visit. He said: "I've been trying to get rid of some electrical stuff for a while and haven't been able to take it over to Harefield."

"I only live just around the corner so it's very handy to get

rid of a few things that have been cluttering up the house."

Another visitor, Sheikh Khalil, used the service to drop off items he'd had stored next to his house for months. He added: "I'd always wanted to drop them to the tip, but this is a great opportunity, just down the road."

"I really appreciate it because it helps the community – a cleaner community, a nicer community – and together, we make it nice and clean."

Find out more:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/waste-drop



Don't forget, you can also visit the council's waste and recycling locations at Harefield Civic Amenity Site and the West Drayton waste weekends or book a bulky waste collection for larger items.

Find out more at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/waste-recycling-centres and www.hillingdon.gov.uk/bulky-waste.

Dumping your rubbish in roads or open spaces is considered fly-tipping and, if caught, can result in a fine of up to £1,000.



Cllr Wayne Bridges, Cabinet Member for Community and Environment, said: "Small changes at home, like recycling your food waste, can make a big difference."

"By expanding food waste collections to flats, introducing our Pop-Up Waste Drop pilot and offering an extensive battery recycling service, we're making it easier than ever for residents to recycle more and bin less."

Find what you can and can't recycle:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/recycling



A green and sustainable borough

Take charge of your battery recycling

Did you know the council offers more than 20 locations to recycle household batteries? Lithium-ion batteries, such as those used in power tools, can be taken to a dedicated bank at Harefield Civic Amenity Site.

We're encouraging residents to take extra care when recycling batteries – or items that contain them – to raise awareness of the dangers of incorrect disposal.

Incorrectly disposing of these

can risk causing fires, putting staff at risk and damaging processing plants. That's why it's vital not to put batteries in your clear recycling bags or general waste.

Recycling batteries responsibly protects the environment and improves safety at our facilities.



Find out more:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/battery-recycling



SHOW UP AND FEEL BETTER

From gym sessions to fitness classes with your friends, your local leisure centre is the perfect place to get you moving. Show up your way and join the community.

better.org.uk/hillingdon

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www.hillingdon.gov.uk/leisure

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Visit www.coam.org.uk for full details

Chiltern Open Air Museum
Newland Park, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles,
Buckinghamshire, HP8 4AB

News from our partners

Keeping you safe: update from the Metropolitan Police Service

Community safety in Hillingdon is built on strong partnerships, effective engagement and ensuring residents have a meaningful voice in local policing. Across the borough, our approach is focused on prevention, early intervention and working closely with communities to address local concerns.

The death of a swan at Rockingham Recreation Ground in January has caused understandable concern. I would like to recognise the positive role played by Save Our Swans Uxbridge, a resident-led group that

has worked constructively with the Metropolitan Police Service, Swan Support, councillors and partner agencies to raise awareness and support preventative action.

Such incidents highlight the importance of vigilance and reporting concerns promptly. We continue to investigate and encourage anyone with relevant information to come forward.

A key element of community engagement is the borough's ward panel network. Ward panels provide a structured forum for residents to raise

concerns, help set local priorities and influence neighbourhood policing activity. Through the Ward Panel Improvement Group, led by Sergeant Paul Whitcomb, every ward in Hillingdon now has an active ward panel.

Ward panels were recently discussed at the Safer Hillingdon Partnership meeting, reflecting their increasing importance in shaping community safety priorities.

This work aligns with the Safer Hillingdon Partnership's Community Safety Strategy 2026-2029, which places a

strong emphasis on prevention, partnership working and empowering communities to play an active role in keeping their neighbourhoods safe – read more on page 7.

Residents are encouraged to engage with their local ward panel, share concerns and consider becoming involved. By continuing to work together, we can strengthen community safety, protect local environments and ensure Hillingdon remains a safe and welcoming borough for all.

Superintendent Priya Shome

Your say

Help us shape the future of your cancer services.

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre in Northwood provides outstanding specialist cancer care by dedicated staff, but modern cancer treatment needs access to services and facilities that are not available on the current site.

That's why we're consulting on moving its specialist cancer services to a new, purpose-built centre next to Watford General Hospital, with more care provided in other hospitals closer to people's homes. If changes aren't made, more and more cancer care will need to move to centres further away.

We want to hear your views before 29th March '26 on proposals to secure the long-term future of specialist cancer services for our region.

For more details, to register and to find out about local events, visit: mvccreview.nhs.uk/get-involved

Complete the online questionnaire at mvccreview.nhs.uk

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

Why vaccination matters – how the HPV vaccine helps protect young people

Looking after our own health and our families' health is important to all of us.

Alongside eating well and staying active, vaccinations help play a vital role in keeping us healthy and our community safe.

Vaccines teach the body how to recognise and fight infections before they cause harm, and over time have helped reduce many serious diseases.

The HPV vaccine

One important infection we can prevent through vaccination is Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

HPV is extremely common, and most people will come into contact with it at some point in their lives. In many cases, it causes no symptoms and clears on its own. However, some types of HPV can lead to health problems later in life, including cancers, such as head and neck and cervical.

The HPV vaccine provides strong protection against the types of HPV most likely to cause cancer. It is offered to both boys and girls around Year 8, when it is most effective.

The vaccine does not contain the live

HPV can affect anyone in their lifetime. Help protect yourself from high-risk HPV cancers

Let's stop HPV cancers together

NHS

virus; instead, it trains the immune system to respond quickly and safely. The vaccine does not contain any porcine or other animal ingredients and is widely accepted as halal and kosher. It has been used worldwide for many years and is closely monitored to ensure it remains safe and effective.

HPV vaccinations

The HPV vaccine will be offered in your

local secondary school from April to Year 8 students and above.

To learn more about the programme in your school and to book a parent/carer information webinar, visit www.schoolvaccination.uk/vaccinations.

By choosing the HPV vaccine, you are giving your child an extra layer of protection that will benefit them long into their adult life.

Discover Hillingdon

For further details and to book these events (which are either run by the council or take place at council-owned venues) plus many more, visit discover.hillingdon.gov.uk. Events marked * are FREE.



March

- 21 Kids' Craft Club***
Ickenham Library
- 23 South Asian Dance Class***
Oak Farm Library
- 23 IT Taster Session***
Also on 25 and 26 March
Botwell Green Library
- 23 Twilight Yoga**
Battle of Britain Bunker
- 24 Focus on Football Conversation Group***
Northwood Pop-up Library
- 24 Cranford Crafts for Adults***
Cranford Park
- 24 Dementia-friendly Daytime Disco**
Compass Theatre
- 25 Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat**
Runs until 27 March
Winston Churchill Theatre
- 27 The Wonder of Plants***
Woodland Centre
- 28 Secrets Uncovered Tour**
Battle of Britain Bunker
- 28 Screen Free Social: Unplugged and Together***
Oak Farm Library
- 30 Games and Activities in Ruislip Woods***
Also on 31 March
Woodland Centre
- 30 Inter Youth Session**
South Ruislip Children's Centre
- 31 Craft Making Session***
Woodland Centre
- 31 SENDIASS Drop-in sessions***
Also on 8, 14, 15, 17, 22, 24, 28 and 29 April
Various locations

April

- 07 Curtain Up!**
Compass Theatre
 - 08 Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**
Runs until 12 April
Compass Theatre
- 
- 09 Council Website Accessibility and Editorial Panel***
Civic Centre
 - 09 Story Building with Author Gita Ralleigh***
Hayes End Library
 - 10 Falls Prevention Workshop***
Oak Farm Library
 - 11 Pride Hub Hillingdon***
Also on 18 April and 2 May
Online

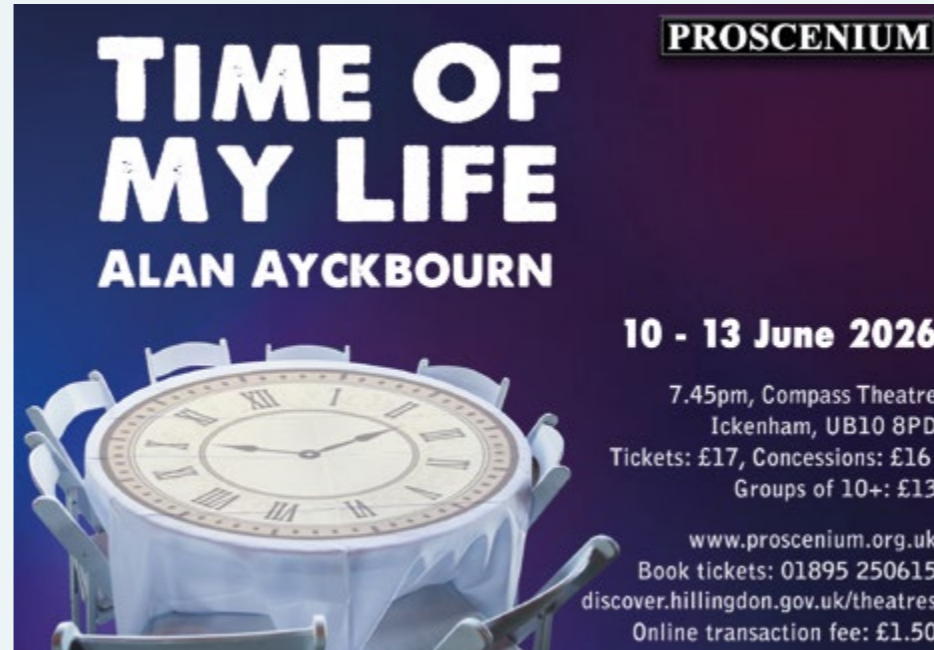
- 13 Spring Walk***
Woodland Centre
- 15 An Evening with Ben Aaronovitch**
Uxbridge Library
- 17 Patel's Millions 2**
Runs until 19 April
Beck Theatre
- 21 Dementia-friendly Daytime Disco**
Compass Theatre
- 27 Dams, Spies and Icebergs Walk***
Woodland Centre

May

- 01 An Afternoon with Yemi Dipeolu***
Botwell Green Library
- 06 Dementia-friendly Singalong**
Also on 3 June
Winston Churchill Theatre
- 08 Coffee and Crime with Andrea Mara**
Manor Farm Library
- 08 A Night to Remember: Motown Show**
Beck Theatre
- 13 Living Together**
Runs until 16 May
Compass Theatre



Living Together
a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn
Ruislip Dramatic Society presents...
Wed 13th - Sat 16th May
Curtain up at 7.45pm
The Compass Theatre
Glebe Avenue, Ickenham UB10 8PD
Tickets: £16 (concessions: £15 Wed & Thurs only)
RDS box office: 01895 632300 Compass box office: 01895 250615
Book online at: www.ruislipdramatic.org
discover.hillingdon.gov.uk
Online bookings subject to a £1.50 booking fee



PROSCENIUM
TIME OF MY LIFE
ALAN AYCKBOURN
10 - 13 June 2026
7.45pm, Compass Theatre
Ickenham, UB10 8PD
Tickets: £17, Concessions: £16
Groups of 10+: £13
www.proscenium.org.uk
Book tickets: 01895 250615
discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/theatres
Online transaction fee: £1.50

- 20 An Evening with Harry Redknapp**
Beck Theatre
- 22 Coffee and Crime with Tom Bradby**
Manor Farm Library
- 20 We Will Rock You**
Runs until 22 May
Winston Churchill Theatre
- 27 Jimmy Tarbuck**
Beck Theatre

June

- 06 Reflections: The Musical Legacy of Diana Ross**
Beck Theatre
- 10 Time of My Life**
Runs until 13 June
Compass Theatre
- 12 Visually Impaired Social Group***
Ruislip Manor Library
- 13 Hillingdon Crime Festival**
Winston Churchill Theatre
- 13 Storytelling with Betsy Griffin***
Ruislip Manor Library

July

- 11 Mayor's Picnic in the Park***
The Closes

- 29 Hillingdon Chamber Choir's Easter Concert**
6pm
Cost: £15, under-18s £5.
Tickets on the door or via www.ticketsource.co.uk/hillingdon-chamber-choir.
St Lawrence Church, HA5 2SJ

April

- 04 Uxbridge Choral Society's Spring Concert**
3.30pm
Cost: £15 (under-16s free).
Tickets on the door or via www.uxbridgechoralsociety.org.uk.
St Margaret's Church, UB8 1AB

- 09 Glorious! The True Story of Florence Foster Jenkins, the Worst Singer in the World**
Runs until 11 April
Doors open 7pm (7.30pm start)
Cost: £13 (£11 on Thursday only).
Find out more and book: www.ticketsource.co.uk/harefield-amateur-dramatic-society, call 01895 253346 or email janscurr@hotmail.com.
St Mary's Church Hall, UB9 6BX

- 26 Eastcote Bowls Club Open Day**
10am to 1pm
Find out more: eastcotebowling.clubbuzz.co.uk, email ebcwebsite@virginmedia.com or call 07720 467665.
Cavendish Park, HA4 9PG

- 26 Fasnidge Bowls Club Open Day**
Also on 3 May
Midday to 4pm
Find out more: Call Peter on 07485 039879 or email psdc@btinternet.com.
Fasnidge Park, UB8 2UW

Community events

March

- 26 Brunel Bulls**
6pm
Wheelchair basketball club suitable for ages six to 13.
Cost: Suggested donation of £5 per child.
Find out more: Email KidSpace@brunel.ac.uk.
Brunel University Sports Centre, UB8 3PH
- 28 Harrow Choral Society's Spring Concert**
5.30pm
Cost: £25, under-18s £2.
Find out more and book: www.harrowchoral.org.uk, email box-office@harrowchoral.org.uk or call 07794 253463.
St Alban's Church, HA2 7PF

- 28 Hillingdon Choral Society's Spring Concert**
7.30pm
Cost: £17, children free.
Tickets on the door or via www.hillingdonchoralsociety.org.uk, hillingdonchoralsociety@gmail.com or 07956 990555.
Douay Martyrs School, UB10 8QY

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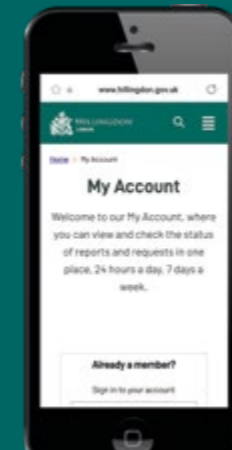
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www.hillingdon.gov.uk/business

Councillors, meetings and consultations
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/council

Council tax
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax

Families' Information Service, fostering and adoption
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/families

Fraud Hotline
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/report-fraud
0800 389 8313

Health and wellbeing
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/health

Housing Services
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/housing
01895 556666

Hillingdon Social Care Direct (adults) (including TeleCareLine and Meals Service)
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/socialcare
01895 556633

Leisure (including parks, leisure centres, theatres and events)
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/leisure

Libraries
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries

Planning and Building Control
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planning

School admissions
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Stronger Families Hub
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/stronger-families

Transport, roads and parking
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/transport

Mental health support

Hillingdon Mind
01895 271559

Samaritans
116 123 (freephone)

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To find out more and sign up, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/heritage-membership

Hillingdon Heritage Membership

BATTLE OF BRITAIN BUNKER • CRANFORD PARK
EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS • MANOR FARM
HILLINGDON MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

HILLINGDON LONDON www.hillingdon.gov.uk

OPEN DAYS.



10 JUNE

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE
UXBRIDGE CAMPUS
4 - 7PM

OPEN
DAYS.

