

ABOUT



WATFORD



WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL

Spring 2019

**Upgrades to our
leisure facilities**



Peter Taylor
Elected Mayor of
Watford

[watford.gov.uk/
electedmayor](http://watford.gov.uk/electedmayor)

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to this spring edition of About Watford.

This is an exciting time for Watford. This council is working hard to deliver improvements to our town, whilst keeping council tax low and providing the first class services that residents expect. That's why I was pleased to pass my first budget recently which committed the council to doing just that. Despite a 70% cut in our funding from central government over the last 10 years, we have worked hard to protect frontline services and invest in improvements to the town. This year's budget means that we can bring exciting new facilities to Oxhey Park, build new council homes for local families and deliver better public transport.

On pages 6 and 7, you can read more about the much-needed improvements to public transport that are coming down the track, which I promised during the election. These include a long awaited upgrade to Watford Junction, with changes to the current station concourse and other station facilities, to make it a more attractive welcome to the town for the 9million passengers who use it every year. We are also making good progress on a new bike hire scheme and bus service for Watford which we will be launching later this year. At a time in which our town is growing, we need to make sure that we have the public transport to match.

We're also working on improvements to our parks to make them even better. Last year was a record breaking one for Cassiobury Park, with numerous awards and the most visitors we have ever had. To crown this off, it was also voted one of the top 10 most popular parks in the country. In addition to what is on offer in Cassiobury Park, on pages 12 and 13 you can read about the plans for fantastic new facilities at Oxhey Park North. These improvements include a new riverside café and terrace, a new play area and new facilities for BMX biking, rollerblading, skateboarding and other wheeled sports. This scheme will provide a family friendly facility that anyone in our town can enjoy. Work is starting on this in April and I can't wait to see the finished result next year!

As always, we will have lots of great events going on across the town, particularly over the Easter holiday period. You can read more about this in the What's On section on pages 28 and 29.

If you think you've got an issue that I might be able to help with, do not hesitate to get in touch with me at themayor@watford.gov.uk or on my office number at **01923 278371**.



Published by Watford Borough Council. This magazine is printed on chlorine free paper, made from sustainable forests and costs 22p to print and distribute. Please recycle it when you have finished with it. This magazine is available on our website. It can be downloaded as a PDF document and also as an audio file.

W ABOUT ATFORD

Features

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Major projects update | Watford Junction Station, Clarendon Road, sustainable transport | 4 |
| Sports stars come to Watford | Leisure centres upgraded | 8 |
| Council tax | What you pay and what we provide | 10 |
| Oxhey Activity Park | Play! Sport! Relax! | 12 |
| Caring for our community | Helping vulnerable people in Watford and tackling youth crime | 14 |
| Were you warm in winter? | Herts Warmer Homes | 15 |
| Reducing the need for single use plastics | Some handy tips to help the environment | 16 |
| Save time, do it online | Sign up for a MyWatford account | 18 |
| Pay by direct debit | Never miss a payment again | 19 |
| Register to vote | Borough ward elections this May | 20 |
| Bring your poll card to vote | Voter ID pilot | 21 |
| Watford's best kept secret | Cheslyn House and Gardens | 22 |
| Celebrating 60 years on the rails | Cassiobury Park's miniature railway | 23 |
| Own The Stage | Show off your talents in Watford town centre for free | 24 |
| Get active and stay active | Get fit this spring | 25 |
| Holiday fun | Easter activities for young people | 27 |
| What's on! | | 28 |
| Your councillors | | 31 |

**WE'RE HERE TO HELP IF YOU
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS**

watford.gov.uk

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8.45am to 5.15pm and Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm



watfordcouncil

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receive
information of
interest to you.
Visit
**[watford.gov.uk/
newsletter](https://www.watford.gov.uk/newsletter)**

The future is looking bright for Watford

Watford Borough Council has ambitious plans for 2019, including multi-million pound regeneration schemes and an on-demand bus service.

These will make Watford an even more attractive town to live, work, visit and invest in, as well as a more sustainable one. Here are just some of the big upcoming projects we are planning this year.

First impressions matter: breathing new life into Clarendon Road

Working closely with Watford Business Improvement District (BID), Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Local Economic Partnership (LEP), we have identified a

prime opportunity to upgrade and revitalise Clarendon Road – a major walking route and employment zone linking Watford Junction and the town centre – and the surrounding areas.

As you may have already noticed, work has begun to improve the junction of Clarendon Road and Beechen Grove in Watford. This first piece of work includes resurfacing the road and pavements and improving the crossing over Beechen Grove for both pedestrians and cyclists. It will be completed by late April this year.

There will be times during the work when vehicle lane closures will be necessary and near the end of the programme, some overnight road closures will enable resurfacing to be completed but we'll make sure you're always kept up to date. For progress updates, follow us on [facebook.com/watfordcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/watfordcouncil) and twitter.com/watfordcouncil

To help create a sense of arrival for the millions coming through Watford Junction every year, a whole host of major improvements will take place until March 2025. Clarendon Road is set to be transformed! We'll keep you posted on what you can expect from these massive upgrades.

All aboard! Watford Junction to receive much-needed makeover

The station - which currently welcomes a whopping 9million visitors every year - will be brought into the 21st century by Watford Borough Council alongside its partners: Halkin, Network Rail, London North Western Railways and Hertfordshire County Council.



L to R: Andy Smith (WBC), Maria Manion (Watford BID), Elected Mayor Peter Taylor, Nick Fenwick (WBC), Adam Wood (Hertfordshire LEP)

To create an exciting and vibrant quarter around the town's main station, plans include a new entrance to improve customer flows, new shopping facilities, new bus stops, better walking routes and a brand new connecting bridge.

Plans also include a second entrance to the station and a new ticket hall to banish those long queues at the ticket barriers, a new bus station for the town and a multi-storey car park for station users.

The route to transformation

- **Phase 1** - New entrance and ticket hall, and retail and refreshment outlets
- **Phase 2** - Development of the bus station
- **Phase 3** - Development of 350 new homes, new offices and new retail space



Keeping Wat

One of the biggest challenges facing Watford is providing new housing for our growing population. As well as ensuring that the right homes are built in the right places, Elected Mayor Peter Taylor has pledged to improve transport in the town to support growth. This year, two of his major transport initiatives are set to launch.

New healthy and cheap ways to travel in Watford

Two exciting proposals to encourage sustainable transport in Watford will allow residents to climb aboard a flexible on-demand bus service or hop on and off at Watford's cycling docks. Both of the proposals are part of Elected Mayor Peter Taylor's aim to improve public transport across Watford.

- The bike share scheme will be open to the public, with cycles available for hire on-street, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are currently 25 schemes across the UK.
- The flexible on-demand bus service runs via an app. Simply book your ride share to pick you up at a 'virtual' stop and it will drop you at your destination. The app combines passenger requests and determines the most efficient route at a fixed fare. The scheme already runs successfully in Oxford, Sittingbourne and Liverpool.



Watford moving

Have your say on the future of cycling facilities in Watford

- We will shortly be conducting a survey on our cycling habits in Watford
- We want to find out why people do not currently cycle; why do they stop; what would make them leave the car behind and start cycling again
- We will be aiming the survey at 'non-cycling enthusiasts' - we already engage the cycling groups across the borough
- The next cycling forum will be held in March
- Complete the survey at watford.gov.uk/cyclesurvey

Elected Mayor Peter Taylor said:

“Managing the growth that is coming is going to be tricky but we are determined to make it work in Watford's favour. Part of that means making sure that the right transport and other essential infrastructure is in place. We must also make sure that local residents have excellent employment opportunities and access to quality housing.”



CYCLE

SURVEY

[WATFORD.GOV.UK/
CYCLESURVEY](https://WATFORD.GOV.UK/CYCLESURVEY)

Sports stars attend opening of refurbished leisure centres

Legends from football and athletics recently helped to celebrate the official opening of the town's refurbished leisure facilities.

Watford Borough Council, in partnership with Everyone Active, began a £1.8million refurbishment of its two leisure centres in August 2018.

To celebrate the completion of the project, Watford, Liverpool and England legend, John Barnes, officially opened Watford Leisure Centre Woodside and Olympic silver medallist, Colin Jackson, cut the ribbon at Watford Leisure Centre Central.

Residents met the sporting heroes and were also able to take advantage of a number of free activities running over the open weekend in the new look facilities, such as free swimming, gym challenges, group exercise classes and bouncy castles.

Customers are now able to enjoy larger gyms with state-of-the-art equipment, a brand new toning suite and new virtual group cycling classes.

What's changed at Watford Woodside Leisure Centre?

Visitors will have noticed that it's easier to book onto popular group exercise classes thanks to the installation of a dedicated group cycling studio, as well as an extension to the current fitness studio.

New screens have been introduced, allowing for more than 40 additional virtual cycling classes to be hosted every week across three studios. Combined with the increased capacity of the existing studio, these changes will lead to better access to a wider range of classes, with less time spent on waiting lists!

The gym changing rooms at Watford Woodside have also received a makeover. The bigger space and modern fittings make it a more welcoming space for everyone.

What's changed at Watford Central Leisure Centre?

Similarly, customers at Watford Central are benefiting from new virtual cycling equipment in the group exercise studios. Again, this has allowed the centre to host a





Above: John Barnes assesses the penalty taking skills of Mayor Peter Taylor at Woodside. Below: 110m hurdler Colin Jackson puts Peter through his paces at Central
 variety of new classes and cater for the growing demand for group fitness.

Elected Mayor of Watford Peter Taylor said: "I promised to continue making our leisure centres even better and we are delivering on this with these fantastic new first class facilities. At a time when councils are under more financial pressure than ever, I'm proud that we're able to work with Everyone Active to still provide the things that matter to people in our town."



Council tax set for 2019/20

A message from Elected Mayor Peter Taylor



Managing your money wisely is so important for the future of our council and our town.

Even at a time of big cuts in council finances from central government, we've made sure Watford Borough Council's share of council tax will rise below inflation. To put that into context, that's just 11p a week for a house in Band D. I'm really pleased that this is the lowest increase in council tax anywhere in Hertfordshire.

This is only possible because in Watford we have managed our finances prudently over many years. We are always working to find innovative ways to make sure that we can deliver first-class services, continue to improve the town and avoid the cuts being made by so many other councils.

We'll continue to provide the services that you rely on. That means bringing more of our award winning parks up to Green Flag standard, more free Big Events and providing even better leisure facilities. This year, I'll also be delivering a new bike hire scheme and bus service, improving our public transport and making Watford a more sustainable town. We'll also be working on building new council homes. This will help put a permanent roof over the heads of local families who really need it the most.

I'm pleased that we have been able to keep council tax rises low and provide investment in local services for everyone in Watford.

Budget plans for 2019/20

COUNCIL TAX



Increasing council tax by 2.2% - below inflation and a rise of only 11p per week for a band D property.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



Introducing new on-demand bus services and a bike-hire scheme.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES



Investing in more Green Flag parks and new facilities in Oxhey Park and Woodside Playing Fields.

HELPING VULNERABLE PEOPLE



Helping vulnerable people by working with charities who are supporting people sleeping rough or who are homeless. Building new council houses for local families currently in temporary accommodation.

ST ALBANS ROAD



Funding improvements to St Albans Road. Working with businesses and residents to improve the pavements, parking and attractiveness of the area.

The charge for council tax

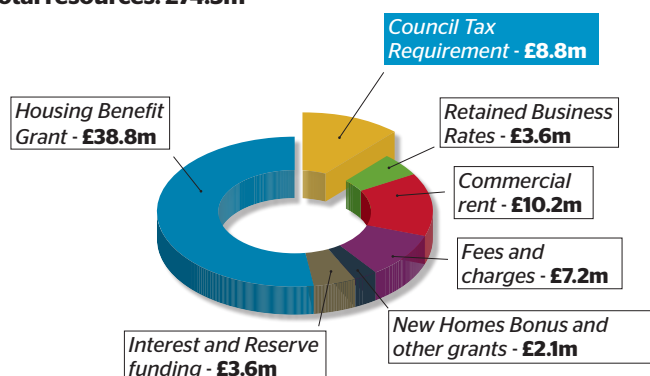
Council tax is set annually, and the money you pay is used to fund local services provided by Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, as well as Watford Borough Council. We collect council tax for all three but each authority is responsible for deciding its own charge.

Of the total council tax collected, we receive around £8.8million, meaning that 15p in every £1 you pay goes towards the services Watford Borough Council provides. Not all the money we spend on our services comes from council tax, central government covers the payment of housing benefit which goes directly to the people who need it, and we receive income from other sources.

| Band | Hertfordshire County Council | Hertfordshire County Council (Adult Social Care) | Police & Crime Commissioner | Watford Borough Council | Total |
|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| A | £842.78 | £63.85 | £125.33 | £178.82 | £1,210.78 |
| B | £983.22 | £74.51 | £146.22 | £208.62 | £1,412.57 |
| C | £1,123.70 | £85.14 | £167.11 | £238.43 | £1,614.38 |
| D | £1,264.15 | £95.79 | £188.00 | £268.23 | £1,816.17 |
| E | £1,545.08 | £117.07 | £229.78 | £327.84 | £2,219.77 |
| F | £1,825.99 | £138.37 | £271.56 | £387.44 | £2,623.36 |
| G | £2,106.93 | £159.64 | £313.33 | £447.05 | £3,026.95 |
| H | £2,528.30 | £191.58 | £376.00 | £536.46 | £3,632.34 |
| % increase | 2.99% | 0% | 14.6% | 2.2% | 4% |

Where our money comes from

Total resources: £74.3m



Our resources are spent on:

Total £74.3m

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Planning, Economic Development, Property Management, Transport & Parking - £7.1m | |
| Housing - £3.1m | |
| Housing Benefit - £39.3m | |
| Parks & Open Spaces, Cultural Services - £4.9m | |
| Waste Services, Street Cleaning, Environmental Health & Licensing - £6.9m | |
| Legal and Democracy, Customer Services, Corporate and Support Costs - £13m | |

How to pay your council tax

You can manage your council tax online by signing up for a **My Watford** account.

By signing up for an account at my.watford.gov.uk, you can see how much council tax you owe, details of payments you've made and dates when payments are due. Plus, you can save the bother of filing and see all your previous bills and letters which have been sent to you.



Figures correct at time of publication



Oxhey Activity Park: play, sport, relax

We're bringing exciting new sport, play and leisure facilities to Oxhey Park. The new facilities will be open in May 2020 - here's a snapshot of what's planned.

Go wild and get fit at Oxhey Activity Park

An adventurous new toddler and junior play area is opening! Your little ones can discover the play trails, swing on the jungle swing like a modern-day Tarzan, roll down the grassy mounds, zoom down the slides or just enjoy being pushed on the swings. And to make sure everyone can join in the fun, most of the equipment is ideal for children with disabilities. Keen to brush up on your table tennis skills? No problem! Outdoor tables will also be available around the play area - free of charge. Just bring along some bats and a ball (and maybe a bandana if you're feeling serious).

To complete the scene, seating and picnicking spots are sprinkled throughout the play space, so you can keep an eye on the children and the table tennis score whilst tucking into your sarnies.

Testing your skills out at the new skate park

Roll up to the new skate park if you're after a good mix of street obstacles, as well as a wide mini ramp if you want some air time. The Plaza will be the destination of choice for street riders, with a range of facilities. The park will also include a bike pump track and smooth skate run, so people of all ages and abilities can work on their wheel skills.

A jump box section for the younger bike and scooter enthusiasts will enable them to

try out jumps and aerial tricks too. Plus, a separate learners' skate park next to the café will give absolute beginners the perfect spot to start honing their skills before they progress to other parts of the park.

New riverside café to cater for park-users

Bikers, sportspeople, walkers and busy parents will be able to relax with a drink and snack in the new riverside café. The café will serve a selection of lovely hot and cold food and drinks, to eat in or take away. On top of this, it's set to feature a meeting space that can be hired out for community use.

Wheels in motion for improved walking and cycling routes

Keen and amateur cyclists will be able to hop on their bikes and cycle around the new bike skills trail winding through the parkland. It comes complete with features made from natural materials to test balance and skills.

Whether you cycle to work or purely for pleasure, park-users can enjoy the new footpaths and cycle paths created to provide a safe route throughout the site. With connections to the existing National Cycle Route 6, which starts in London, passes through Watford and goes on to Luton, you can enjoy mainly traffic free cycle paths.

If you are new to cycling or need a refresher, then local community

cycle hubs can help you get started. Many will help with bike repairs, selling refurbished bikes and coordinating local rides. For more information, visit spokesgroup.org.uk or watfordcyclehub.org.uk



Construction is expected to start in April 2019, so watch this space. For more information, visit oxheyactivitypark.co.uk

Caring for our community

Helping the homeless



Every winter, we work with local homelessness charity New Hope to introduce Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) to ensure that shelter is provided for people who are sleeping rough in Watford when temperatures dip below zero.

This winter we partnered with New Hope to upgrade the town's cold weather programme to SWEP+. With the support of St Mary's Church, Wellspring Church and One YMCA, we provided shelter for rough sleepers every night in December 2018 until the end of March this year, no matter what the temperature.

Elected Mayor of Watford Peter Taylor said: "This service not only provides a bed for the night, but also access to the fantastic services that New Hope provides. We will continue to do everything we can to support those sleeping rough in our town."

How you can help

The council's Spare Change campaign shows how donations to homeless charities can change lives. Two short films show

that donating directly to local charities rather than people on the street can have a bigger impact. Watch the films and find out more at watford.gov.uk/sparechange

What to do if you see someone sleeping rough

Call New Hope's 24/7 helpline **0300 012 0168** or report their position with the Streetlink app on your mobile phone, or visit streetlink.org.uk.

Since SWEP+ started in December 2018 42 different individuals have come to the night shelter.

As a direct result of SWEP+ five rough sleepers have moved into accommodation and away from the streets.

Elected Mayor and PCC visit Chessbrook Education Support Centre

Elected Mayor Peter Taylor and Police and Crime Commissioner David Lloyd visited Chessbrook Education Support Centre to learn more about a new scheme to educate Watford students about youth and knife crime.

Watford's Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Safer Watford, is working with local schools - including Chessbrook - to develop an educational package to divert young people away from gang culture, as well as reducing offending.

This is part of a wider strategy, involving Hertfordshire Constabulary and other CSPs in Hertfordshire, which will identify young people most at risk and provide targeted support.

Elected Mayor Peter Taylor said: "Working closely with schools, the police and local groups we are helping vulnerable young people



Headteacher Sue Howe with Elected Mayor Peter Taylor (centre) and Police and Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd

and making sure that they are not drawn into crime. This bold scheme is Watford at its best, bringing together many Watford organisations. I'd also like to thank local businesses who are putting in funding to support this work."

Watford Chief Inspector Matt

Phillips added: "Working with our CSP partners, we will be able to identify those most at risk of being drawn into this pervading culture and prevent their involvement through education and diversionary activities, making Watford - and indeed Hertfordshire - a safer place to live."

Were you warm over winter?

In the cold months it's good to know there's extra help available to stay warm for those who need it.

Most of us can deal with the cold and damp by turning up the heating so our homes stay cosy, whatever the temperature outside. But for some, colder weather can bring real problems. There is help available for those who need it. Herts Warmer Homes, in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, offers free and subsidised grants for home insulation, some boiler replacements and repairs as well as providing emergency heaters.

A typical household can save up to £275 per year on bills if their home is insulated. For more information call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044 or email info@hertshelp.net



Watford Borough Council commits to reducing plastic usage

It's official, we're phasing out single use plastics! We've already started to make progress at the Town Hall and with our partners Everyone Active and Veolia.

Over the next year you'll see more drinking fountains springing up in Watford's parks to encourage people to ditch expensive plastic bottles of water in favour of reusable bottles.

Elected Mayor of Watford Peter Taylor said: "I want Watford to be a greener, more sustainable town. And I know that residents, businesses and local organisations in Watford are keen to phase out the use of unnecessary plastics. So I'm making sure we push on with this important work."

Remember your reusables!

Keep your eyes peeled for a new campaign led by Hertfordshire WasteAware Partnership and supported by Watford Borough Council. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the importance of sticking with reusables when you're out and about. Items such as reusable cups, water bottles and bags should be part of your daily routine.

Find out more: watford.gov.uk/reusables



Do you know which items should go into your blue-lidded bin?

Blue-lidded bin

- PAPER**
 - Newspapers
 - Junk mail
 - Magazines
 - Cardboard boxes
 - Envelopes
 - Directories
 - Shredded paper
 - Food and drink cartons
- GLASS**
 - Bottles
 - Jars (including lids)
- RIGID PLASTICS**
 - Bottles
 - Pots
 - Tubs
 - Trays
 - Sprays
 - Punnets
- METAL**
 - Steel cans
 - Aluminium cans
 - Clean foil
 - Foil trays
 - Aerosols

Recycle right this year

When you're recycling plastics always remember the scrunch test - if the item bounces back when you scrunch it, it cannot be recycled, so make sure it goes into your black bin.

Unfortunately, items such as polystyrene, soft plastics such as carrier bags, crisp packets, cling film, chocolate bar wrappers

and salad bags cannot be recycled in your blue-lidded bin. Find out what can go in your recycling bin at: watford.gov.uk/blueliddedbin

Remember to always recycle right - empty any liquid and rinse out any food or drink residue before putting it in your blue-lidded bin. Bins that contain the wrong items will not be emptied. Items such as plastic bags, hangers and

polystyrene cannot be recycled and should go in your black-lidded bin.

Don't forget to also put your bins out for collection the night before or by 6am on your collection day and return them to your property boundary within 24 hours of collection.

Find out more: watford.gov.uk/blueliddedbin

Easter collection dates

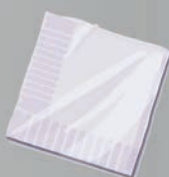
| Due collection date | Revised collection date |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Good Friday 19 April | Saturday 20 April |
| Easter Monday 22 April | Tuesday 23 April |
| Tuesday 23 April | Wednesday 24 April |
| Wednesday 24 April | Thursday 25 April |
| Thursday 25 April | Friday 26 April |
| Friday 26 April | Saturday 27 April |

Check your collection date at watford.gov.uk/mybinday

Have you been to the new reuse shop at Waterdale Household Waste Recycling Centre in Garston? It's open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and over the weekend from 10am to 6pm. Come along and grab yourself a reuse bargain!

Black bin

- Polystyrene
- Nappies
- Light bulbs
- Hangers
- Plastic bags
- Soft plastics including cling film and crisp packets



Save time, do it online

You can now manage your council tax and benefits online by signing up for a My Watford account.

By signing up for an account at my.watford.gov.uk, you can see how much council tax you owe, details of payments you've made and dates when payments are due. Plus, you can save the bother of filing and see all your previous bills and letters which have been sent to you.

If you're claiming benefits, an online account will also be a huge time-saver. At the click of a button you'll be able to see information on your next payment, as well as all the information we hold about you and your household.

This means you can check and update your details anytime. For landlords receiving housing benefit payments directly, a My Watford account will let you see how much housing benefit has been paid and when you can expect the next payment.

Watford businesses can also take advantage of having an account, which will let you keep an eye on where you are with your business rates payments.

To register for an account, head to my.watford.gov.uk or scan this QR code.



Make a change for the better: pay by direct debit and get your bills by email

26,572 people in Watford are now signed up to pay their council tax by direct debit and get their bills by email. We're asking as many people as possible to join them.

Signing up is completely secure and takes just five minutes, saving you the hassle of having to remember to pay every month and file your bills. Simply go to my.watford.gov.uk to register for an account and sign up to these services.

Every month, an average of almost 2,000 people forget to pay their council tax on time,

which is no surprise given how busy life is. But this means that every year council tax payers' money goes into sending out reminders.

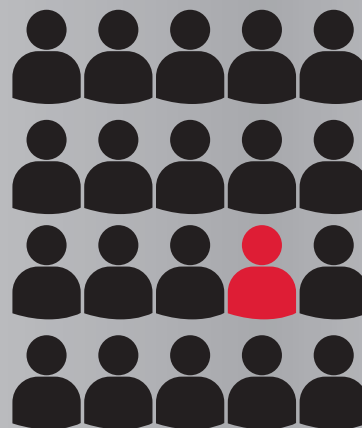
A quick switch to paying your council tax by direct debit and getting your bills by email can help make your life easier and means you never have to worry about missing a payment again.



Join the thousands of people already signed up to direct debit and ebilling by registering for an account at my.watford.gov.uk



12 If everyone in Watford got their council tax bill by email, we could save 12 trees a year



1 in 20

Every month, 1 in 20 people in Watford don't pay their council tax on time

60%

More than 60% of Watfordians are already signed up to direct debit

£9,000



Around £9,000 a year is spent on posting first reminders to people to pay their council tax

6% @

Less than 6% of the town get their bill by email

Don't delay: Register to vote today

Make sure you don't miss your chance to vote in the borough ward elections in May.

There's little more than a month left to register to vote if you want to have your say in our borough ward elections on Thursday 2 May 2019.

Voting will take place on Thursday 2 May, but don't wait until then to check you are eligible to take part in the poll. By now you'll have received a household notification letter from us listing everyone in your home who is eligible to vote.

If your name isn't listed, don't worry. Just head to **gov.uk/register-to-vote** and follow the instructions before **Friday 12 April 2019** and you'll still get the chance to vote in our ward councillor elections.

If you want to vote by post, we'll need to have received your application by 5pm on Monday 15 April 2019. Your poll card will be delivered around 23 March 2019 and includes a form to do this – just fill it in and send it back to us.



Bring your poll card to vote

Watford is once again taking part in the government-led pilot scheme to make sure everyone who votes is who they say they are.



You'll have to show your poll card when you come to vote in our polling stations on Thursday 2 May 2019.

For the second year running, we're taking part in the voter ID pilot with 10 other local councils. This is looking at the best way to tackle possible election fraud by making sure that the person presenting themselves at the polling station to vote is who they say they are. This follows Electoral Commission reports that, nationwide, there has been a sharp rise in voter impersonation since 2014.

Nothing else will change - just remember to bring your poll card with you when you come to vote. Your poll card will be delivered around five weeks before election-day on 2 May, so keep it safe and bring it with you when you vote.

The first pilot in May 2018 was a huge success for Watford, with voter turnout reaching record

levels for the mayoral and local elections alone. 39.27% turned out to vote in the mayoral election, whilst 39.28% voted in the ward elections. On the day, only 42 people are known to have not voted because they did not have their poll card or alternative ID - this is just 0.22% of the number of people who voted at polling stations.

If you don't receive your poll card by 1 April, contact Electoral Services at elections@watford.gov.uk or phone **01923 278369**.

If you lose your poll card, bring along one of the following:

- Valid passport
- UK or EU photo card driving licence
- Biometric residence permit
- EEA Identity Card
- Northern Ireland Electoral Identity Card
- Photo card parking permit (issued as part of the Blue Badge scheme)

- Ministry of Defence Identity Card
- Concessionary travel pass funded by HM Government
- Oyster 60+ pass
- PASS scheme card

There will be no change to the way you vote if you have a postal vote.

To see the Electoral Commission and Cabinet Office evaluation of last year's pilot, visit gov.uk

Managing Director and Returning Officer for Watford Borough Council, Manny Lewis, said:

“We are taking part in this pilot to minimise fraud whilst keeping it simple for people to cast their votes without difficulty, as they did last year with Watford having the highest ever turn out for mayoral and local elections alone.”

A garden oasis in Watford

Discover the exotic Cheslyn House and Gardens this spring

Often described as Watford's "hidden gem", Cheslyn House and Gardens is another of Watford's Green Flag Award winners. Its 3.5 acres of space is imaginatively laid out to invite exploration, providing a myriad of interesting areas including a pond, aviary, fernery and public art.

Designed by renowned architect Henry Colbeck and his wife, Daisy, the original gardens have a collection of unusual and exotic plants which they collected whilst travelling the world. Among the special delights you can still see today are the whimsical sweet gum tree, the handsome Indian bean tree and the distinctive tulip tree.

The council has maintained the site since 1965 and further developed the gardens by adding new features, such as the pond, a rock and gravel garden and large herbaceous borders. This has encouraged new wildlife to visit the gardens, including dragonflies, damselflies, frogs, newts, birds and water insects.

Beyond the house and open lawns, a paved pathway turns into a natural path for visitors to explore the semi-natural woodland, which is full of colour in spring when the azaleas and rhododendrons are in full bloom.

Our partner Veolia's expert gardener is often working in the gardens and is happy to share his vast knowledge with visitors, so do stop and say hello if you see him.

Cheslyn House and Gardens is accessible from **Nascot Wood Road, WD17 4SL**.

For more information, please visit watford.gov.uk/cheslyn or contact Veolia on email: **enquiries.watford@veolia.co.uk** or tel: **020 3567 6900**

Hiring Cheslyn House

Whilst Cheslyn House is currently closed to the general public, the building is available for hire.

The venue is great for local organisations for a variety of different functions, such as business meetings, away days, training courses or charity fundraisers. The building mainly caters for small functions with a seated capacity of around 15 people in the largest room. Kitchen facilities, toilets and limited parking are available. For more booking information, please visit watford.gov.uk/cheslyn

The house is available to hire Monday to Sunday from 9am to 8pm and the hire charges are:

- £20 per hour for a registered charity or recognised voluntary/ community group or school
- £35 per hour for commercial organisations and private hire

Opening times of gardens

November to February

9am to 4pm

March and October

9am to 6pm

April to September

9am to 8pm

Open all year round, except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.



Watford's Miniature Railway doing the locomotion for its 60th birthday

Loved by young and old, Watford Miniature Railway - set in the award winning Cassiobury Park - will be celebrating its 60th birthday this year.

The charming railway full of huff and puff opened in Easter of 1959 and is estimated to have been visited by 2million passengers over the last six decades.

As you climb aboard the miniature train, a woodland adventure awaits. Train enthusiasts and families can enjoy a seven minute ride which meanders through the park woodland, criss-crossing several lines before returning to the terminus beside the River Gade.

To mark this anniversary there will be a public 'memory wall' exhibition this month. Southern Miniature Railways and Watford Borough Council would like your help collecting old photographs and stories you may have of the railway. If you are interested, please contact watford@minirail.co.uk and cassiobury@watford.gov.uk.

The birthday celebrations will take place on 27 and 28 April 2019 at Cassiobury Park, when the exhibition will be unveiled in full with a commemorative booklet presenting the railway's history, as well as community events with activities. The booklet will



include the cultural impact of the line, including what it means to those living around Watford and the many users of Cassiobury Park over the years. From the

days of the railway's first steam engine, Maid Marion, the railway has been thought of fondly. We'd love your help to make this special anniversary year a real success.



Photo: Anne Horton

FREE

OWN THE STAGE

Show off your talent in Watford town centre this summer for free.

Watford Borough Council's Own the Stage is returning this summer and we're looking for local performers to take part. We have new professional equipment, including a full PA system, for you to use free of charge.

If you are in a local band, love to dance, recite poetry, act or perform in any way and are interested in showing off your talent, the council would love to hear from you!



An incredible 32 acts performed last year, so if you're interested in performing get in touch at events@watford.gov.uk

For more information, visit watfordbigevents.co.uk



watfordbigevents.co.uk



**WE ARE
WATFORD
BIG EVENTS**



**WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

Get active and stay active with Watford Football Club



To help you get active and keep active, the newly launched Active Watford and Three Rivers - run by Watford Football Club's Community Sports and Education Trust - will be providing a health mentoring programme with the aim of getting people active.

The scheme offers local residents the opportunity to access a 12 week programme at a participating leisure venue, supported by a fully qualified and friendly instructor. It's aimed at adults who have struggled to stay active but who are determined to make a change.

Participants who have taken part in similar schemes have shown a leap in their ability to do physical activity, increasing their stamina by 50 minutes after just three months of the programme.

Anyone looking to get active but unsure of where to start should contact Active Watford and Three Rivers. Referred by GPs, the programme offers one-to-one help and advice, clear action plans, and signposting to activities in the local area, as well as support along the way. If you're aged over 16 and live in Watford (or Three Rivers), you can register your interest by emailing alison.goodchild@watfordfc.com or calling **07710 096398**.

The project has been funded by the Premier League Charitable Fund (PLCF), Watford Borough Council, Three Rivers District



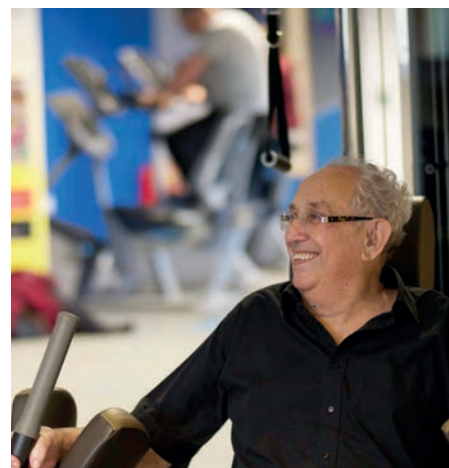
Council, Herts Valley CCG (Watford and Three Rivers locality), Watford Community Housing and the 'Get Healthy, Get Active fund' courtesy of Sport England.

For further information, follow ActiveW3R on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter or visit watfordfccsetrust.com/ActiveW3R

Need help to get moving?

We know that getting active can be difficult. We are here to help you get started and to support you along the way. This includes helping you set your own personalised plan of action so you can find ways to become and stay active.

- Download the Watford FC Trust Healthy Living Brochure from watfordfccsetrust.com
- View the Watford Get Active timetable at watfordgetactive.co.uk/whats-on. It has something for everyone, from netball and running groups to skateboarding.



Kier Property

Kier Property operates throughout the UK from offices in London, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and Nottingham.

Part of the Kier Group; the property division has an ambitious development programme to deliver retail, industrial, offices, leisure and mixed-use residential opportunities.

With a development pipeline in-excess of £1.5bn, Kier Property has established itself as a leading player and through working forums with our joint venture partners and occupiers we are continuing to review how we deliver our product for the businesses of the future.

We have continued to expand, building volume and securing suitable development options in key locations. These are exciting times for Kier Property with our strength continuing to be in the breadth of our offering and flexibility.

0203 280 6000

Email: sharon.mitchell@kier.co.uk



www.kier.co.uk
@Kierproperty



As Watford's dedicated provider of recycling and refuse collections, street cleansing services, maintenance of parks, cemeteries and open spaces, we work in close partnership with Watford Borough Council to make Watford even cleaner and greener for all residents, businesses and visitors to enjoy. As an innovative, forward-thinking environmental services company, we look for new technology to ensure we continue to meet and exceed our clients' and customers' needs while also making sure that we protect and enhance the environment. We believe it is vital to support the communities we operate in and see this as integral to the provision of high quality, sustainable services.

To find out more about the support and funding we offer to community groups and volunteers in Watford please visit:
www.watford.gov.uk/recyclingfund
www.watford.gov.uk/parksvolunteering

For more information about Veolia visit:
www.veolia.co.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter at:
twitter.com/veoliauk

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BOX OFFICE 01923 571 102
info@watfordcolosseum.co.uk

Find out more at watfordcolosseum.co.uk

Looking for some extra storage space?



We have garages available all over Watford at great rates!

It's amazing how quickly stuff can pile up in your home, so if you need a little extra storage space we have the perfect solution for you.

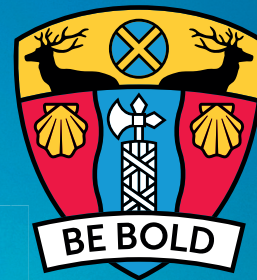
For more information call **Secure Parking and Storage** on 01923 522510 or email watford.garages@secureparkingandstorage.co.uk



Managed by



WAT'S ON



Free and fun activities this Easter holiday

Mon 8 - Sat 20 April

Following on from the hugely successful summer activities, Watford Borough Council is hosting a range of free, fun and challenging activities during the Easter holiday for children and young people aged from five to 15.



The fun starts on Monday 8 April all the way through to Saturday 20 April.

There'll be a range of activities to enjoy including drama workshops, dance academy, singing and our popular stage school.

You can also let your imagination guide you on an adventure as you become a swash-buckling pirate or how about saving the world as a superhero or joining in some Wild West fun? Use your creativity in our arts and crafts sessions or let out your competitive side in our sport sessions, guaranteed to keep you active.

All activities will take place in parks, open spaces and various indoor venues across Watford.

All sessions are free and no booking is required so feel free to turn up to as many sessions as you wish.

Due to recent data protection changes (GDPR), it is now necessary for all children and young people to be registered by a parent or responsible adult.

For more information keep an eye on our website watford.gov.uk/play and don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @**watfordcouncil**



JOIN US THIS EASTER HOLIDAY



**ARTS &
CRAFTS**



**ADVENTURE
PLAY**



**STAGE
SCHOOL**

WATFORD.GOV.UK/PLAY



What's on in and around Watford

March

Sing-a-Long-a The Greatest Showman
7 March 2019, 7.30pm - Tickets from £15.00
Watford Colosseum

Singalonga Productions bring you their newest show, the smash hit film musical that everyone can't stop singing - The Greatest Showman!
watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102

Absurd Person Singular by Alan Ayckbourn
7 - 30 March 2019 - Tickets from £13.50

Watford Palace Theatre
It's Britain on the make in 1971 and backstage at the party, three marriages are in the pressure cooker... A hilarious vintage gem from a master of comedy.
watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk / 01923 225671

Photo walk in Cassiobury Park

13 March 2019, 11am - 1pm - Cost £5 per person
Meet at **Cassiobury Park Hub**, on patio at 11am
Guided walk to explore the park and opportunities to take nature photos. Local photographer will be there to provide advice.
meetup.com/Watford-Photography-Meetup /
info@andrewlalchan.co.uk

The ELO Experience - Greatest Hits & More Tour
22 March 2019, 7.30pm - Tickets from £27
Watford Colosseum

The ELO Experience have been bringing the music of Jeff Lynne and The Electric Light Orchestra to the live stage for over 12 years.
watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102



The ELO Experience

Los Endos: Ultimate Genesis presents Selling Lamb by the Pound

23 March 2019, 7.30pm - Tickets from £27.50
Watford Colosseum

Los Endos are painstakingly perfecting the craft of recreating the amazing music of Genesis for their growing fan base.
watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102

Three Choirs Concert - Verdi: Requiem
30 March 2019, 7.30pm - Tickets from £13
Watford Colosseum

This concert is part of a 30-year tradition among three of Harrow's premier choirs, Harrow Choral Society, Harrow Philharmonic Choir and Stanmore Choral Society.
watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102

April

Mike & The Mechanics - Looking Back Over My Shoulder Tour

2 April 2019, 7.30pm - Tickets from £36.50
Watford Colosseum

Mike & The Mechanics, who have sold over ten million records worldwide - announce their 2019 nationwide Looking Back Over My Shoulder Tour.
watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102

Meet Marks and Gran

3 April 2019 - Tickets £10
Watford Palace Theatre

Award-winning creators and writers of classic British television series, including Birds of a Feather, are coming to the Watford Palace Theatre for an afternoon of comedy and conversation.
watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk / 01923 225671

Hightide and Loose Tongue in association with Bush Theatre Presents: The Trick by Eve Leigh

5 - 6 April 2019, Tickets £10
Watford Palace Theatre

Ghosts, comedy, mediums, and all kinds of tricks collide in this new play by Eve Leigh, directed by the award-winning Roy Alexander Weise.
watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk / 01923 225671

In The Night Garden Live

6 - 7 April 2019, various times - Tickets from £16
Watford Colosseum
Igglepiggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends are back in their brand new live show Igglepiggle's Busy Day! Join Igglepiggle as he looks for his friends in the Night Garden by following their funny sounds until he finds them all!
watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102

Crafty History

9 April 2019, 10.30 - 11.30am - £2 per child
Cassiobury Park Hub education space
History themed craft activity. Suitable for 5 - 13 years, adults to accompany children. No booking required, first come first served basis.
cassiobury@watford.gov.uk

David Baddiel's ANIMALCOLM the Musical

13 April 2019 - Tickets £10
Watford Palace Theatre

A vibrant, energetic and gloriously funny musical combining physical theatre, puppetry and outstanding storytelling.
watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk / 01923 225671

The Pillowman - a play by Martin McDonagh
15 - 20 April 2019, 7.45pm - Tickets from £8 to £12
Pump House Theatre

This dark and funny play is an utterly unforgettable masterpiece from one of Ireland's most treasured writers. It is suitable only for an adult audience.
pumphousetheatrecompany.com / 0333 666 3366

Aliens Love Underpants - based on the book by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort

16 April 2019, 11.30am & 2pm
Watford Palace Theatre

This zany and hilarious tale based on the best-selling children's book is wonderfully brought to life on stage.
watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk / 01923 225671



Aliens Love Underpants

Storytime Adventure

18 April 2019, 10.30 - 11.30am - £2 per child
Meet at **Cassiobury Park Hub** on patio at 10.25am
Storytelling and activities in the park. Adults to accompany children. Suitable for 2-6 years. No booking required, first come first served basis.
cassiobury@watford.gov.uk

Wild Walk

18 April 2019, 1 - 2.30pm - £2 per child
Meet at **Cassiobury Park Hub** on patio at 1pm
Explore and spot wildlife at Cassiobury. Adults to accompany children. No booking required, first come first served basis.
cassiobury@watford.gov.uk

UB40 - 40th Anniversary Tour "For The Many"

21 April 2019, 8pm - Tickets from £41.50
Watford Colosseum
Birmingham's world-famous reggae stars UB40 have announced a massive tour in 2019 to celebrate their 40th anniversary!
watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102

Pensioners' Forum

Watford Borough Council and Watford & Three Rivers Trust invite residents to the first Pensioners' Forum on **Tuesday 12 March 2019, from 2-4pm** at the **Town Hall** in **Watford**. It's **FREE** to attend and a great way for residents to meet and have their say on a range of issues and chat over tea and cake.

To book, visit: <https://community.w3rt.org/events/14560> or email watfordpf@w3rt.org or call **01923 216967**.

Easter Eggstravaganza

22 April 2019, 1 - 4pm - £2 per child

Cassiobury Park Hub education space

Join our trail game to win an Easter egg, plus craft activity. Adults must accompany children. No booking required, first come first served basis.
cassiobury@watford.gov.uk

Photo walk in Cassiobury Park

24 April 2019, 11am - 1pm - Cost £5 per person

Meet at Cassiobury Park Hub on patio at 11am

Guided walk to explore the park and opportunities to take nature photos. Local photographer will be there to provide advice.

[meetup.com/Watford-Photography-Meetup/](https://www.meetup.com/Watford-Photography-Meetup/)
info@andrewlalchan.co.uk

Remembering The Movies - with Aljaz Skorjanec and Janette Manrara

24 April 2019, 7.30pm - Tickets from £29

Watford Colosseum

If you loved Remembering Fred then get ready for a remarkable, unique and star-studded rollercoaster ride through some of the most successful, Oscar winning and most memorable films of all time.

watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102



Radlett Theatre Company presents Boeing Boeing

24 - 27 April 2019, evenings at 7.45pm, Saturday matinee at 3pm - Tickets £10, concessions £8

Pump House Theatre

Journalist Bernard Lawrence has his hands full in the romance department: he has three girlfriends, all stewardesses. Bernard's fool proof plan comes crashing down with all the girls set to arrive at his Paris apartment all at once. 07958 326908

The Simon & Garfunkel Story

26 April 2019, 7.30pm - Tickets £25

Watford Colosseum

Direct from its success at London's Lyric Theatre, a SOLD OUT worldwide tour and standing ovations at every performance, The Simon & Garfunkel Story is back!

watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102

I Talk Too Much - An evening of chat and music with Francis Rossi

27 April 2019, 7.30 pm - Tickets from £29

Watford Colosseum

I'm Francis Rossi: I Talk Too Much. The founder, lead singer and lead guitarist of Status Quo will talk about his mishaps and adventures of life on the road with one of the biggest and most loved bands ever, Status Quo.

watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102



May

Arcola Theatre Present: The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

2 - 18 May 2019 - Tickets from £13.50

Watford Palace Theatre

From one of the 20th Century's most celebrated playwrights, Femi Olufowaju Jr, directs a radical new interpretation of Tennessee Williams' shattering play.

watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102

Tropicana Nights

4 May 2019, 8pm - Tickets from £9

Watford Colosseum

Looking for a fun filled evening of fantastic 80s music and dancing? Then look no further... Join us at Tropicana Nights and indulge yourselves in pure 80s heaven.

watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102

May Day Celebration

6 May 2019, 1 - 4pm

Cassiobury Park Bandstand

Come and join May Day activities at Cassiobury Park. No booking required.
cassiobury@watford.gov.uk

Kevin Clifton in Burn The Floor

7 May 2019, 7.30pm - Tickets from £30

Watford Colosseum

Bringing their famous, infectious and rebellious energy to the stage every single night in the UK, Burn The Floor stars Strictly Come Dancing favourite Kevin Clifton, and the new Italian heartthrob, Graziano Di Prima.

watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102

Bat Walk

18 May 2019, 8.30 - 10.30pm - Costs £2 per person

Cassiobury Park, Meet at Gade Avenue carpark

Come on a walk with a local expert and get the chance to spot bats and use detectors. Booking required as there are limited places.

cassiobury@watford.gov.uk

Russell Kane | The Fast and The Curious

18 May 2019, 8pm - Tickets from £24.

Watford Colosseum

He's back. The keenly-awaited brand new tour show is here. Packing more energy than a Duracell factory, Russell's RS Turbo laugh engine will motor through love, family and life - once again proving that the fast and the curious amongst us see more stuff, and get more done.

watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102

The King is Back - Ben Portsmouth is Elvis

19 May 2019, 7.30pm - Tickets from £30.50

Watford Colosseum

Internationally renowned as one, if not The Best Elvis Tribute in the world today, Ben Portsmouth will bring his unique style and charisma and will show audiences why he is regarded as the best in the business.

watfordcolosseum.co.uk / 01923 571102

Hal Cruttenden: Chubster

24 May 2019 - Tickets £18

Watford Palace Theatre

Hal's literally filled our screens recently on Have I Got News For You, The Apprentice: You're Fired, Bake Off: Extra Slice, and Live at the Apollo.

watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk / 01923 225671



Russell Kane



Discover your town centre: watfordforyou.org

WatfordForYou f @watford4you t @WatfordForYou i @watford_for_you

Beat the chill

Cold weather can be a challenge, with the risk of freezing pipes and flooding, but there's lots you can do to prevent problems during winter!



Helpful tips to prevent burst pipes:

- insulate your pipes inside and out
- check stop taps
- insulate your cold water tank
- if it's cold leave your central heating on low
- fix dripping taps
- if you're going away turn off the water supply.

Spread the word to your friends and family!

For more information and videos about coping with cold weather visit: www.affinitywater.co.uk/winter



Affinity Water
Your local supply, on tap

How your council lines up



In Watford we have an Elected Mayor, Peter Taylor, who was elected for a four-year term on 3 May 2018. You can contact the Mayor if you wish to raise an issue with him directly.

Watford Borough is divided into 12 wards. Each ward has three councillors whom you elect to represent you for a four-year term. Councillors can be contacted on the phone numbers shown or by email and are there for you to discuss any issues or concerns you have about your neighbourhood or the town.

Peter Taylor
Liberal Democrats
01923 278371
themayor@watford.gov.uk

Callowland

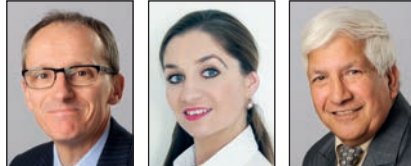


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Holywell



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Leggatts



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Meriden

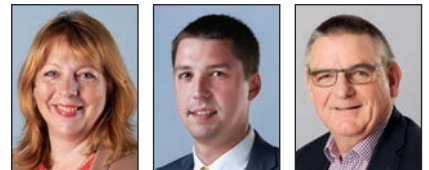


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Nascot



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Stanborough



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Tudor



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Vicarage



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(Lab) = Labour (LD) = Liberal Democrats



Official Poll Card
for voting on Thursday 2 May 2019

KEEP YOUR POLL CARD SAFE
bring this poll card with you as proof of ID

Voting Information:
Election of borough councillor for [Name of Ward]
Polling Day: Thursday 2 May 2019
Polling Hours: 100 am to 10.00 pm

Your Polling Station will be: [Map]
Telephone Helpline: 01923 278369

Number on Register: _____

The form below should only be completed if you wish to vote by post.
Please read the notes overleaf, complete and return the form to arrive no later than 5pm Monday 15 April 2019 to: The Electoral Registration Officer, Town Hall, Watford, WD17 3EX

1. How long do you want the postal vote for? (See note 1 overleaf)
☐ All elections until further notice
☐ For the period from (start date) _____ to (end date) _____
☐ For the election(s) to be held on _____

2. Where do you want your postal vote sent? (See note 2 overleaf)
If you want your ballot paper(s) sent to you at a different address please give the full address below, and you must state your reason for this request.
Address _____
Reason _____

3. Contact telephone no: _____

4. Your Details:
D D M M Y Y Y Y
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

5. Your Date of Birth:
Please complete all boxes IN BLACK INK (See notes)

6. Your Signature:
Please sign inside the box IN BLACK INK

7. Today's Date: _____

LIVE IN WATFORD?

BRING YOUR POLL CARD TO VOTE ON 2 MAY 2019

Everyone voting at a Watford polling station at this year's elections will need a form of ID

YOUR POLL CARD IS THE BEST WAY TO IDENTIFY YOU – SO KEEP IT SAFE FOR 2 MAY



WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

FOR MORE INFORMATION

visit watford.gov.uk/VoterID
or contact 01923 278369
or elections@watford.gov.uk