

TALK of the TOWN

Issue 90 November 2021

'Helping Make Dunstable a Better Place'

Christmas In Dunstable



Winter Lights Festival

Twilight Market

Torchlight Procession

Christmas Pudding Nights



www.dunstable.gov.uk



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Meet the Councillors

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Dunstable Town Council Committee Membership

Finance and General Purposes

Councillors Gloria Martin (*Town Mayor*)
Liz Jones (*Deputy Town Mayor*)
Sid Abbott (*Chairman*)
Philip Crawley (*Vice-Chairman*)
Wendy Bater
Lisa Bird
Matthew Brennan
Mark Cant
John Gurney
Kenson Gurney
Peter Hollick
Cameron Restall
Lee Roberts
Johnson Tamara

Community Services

Councillors Gloria Martin (*Town Mayor*)
Liz Jones (*Deputy Town Mayor*)
Peter Hollick (*Chairman*)
Cameron Restall (*Vice-Chairman*)
Sid Abbott
Wendy Bater
Alan Corkhill
Greg George
Pamela Ghent
John Gurney
Lee Roberts
Gladys Sanders

Grounds and Environmental

Councillors Gloria Martin (*Town Mayor*)
Liz Jones (*Deputy Town Mayor*)
Lisa Bird (*Chairman*)
Greg George (*Vice-Chairman*)
Matthew Brennan
Mark Cant
Alan Corkhill
Philip Crawley
Pamela Ghent
Kenson Gurney
Gladys Sanders
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[facebook/creaseypark](https://www.facebook.com/creaseypark)
[facebook/prioryhousedunstable](https://www.facebook.com/prioryhousedunstable)

@grovecorner

@dunstabletc
@dunstableevents
@dunstabletown
@creaseypark
@prioryhouse
@bennettsplash

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Mayor's Welcome

Councillor
Gloria Martin

Welcome everybody to the autumn edition of Talk of the Town.

When my Mayoral year started in May the country was starting to come out of a series of lockdowns, the restrictions due to the Covid 19 pandemic were starting to ease. At that time I was hopeful for the future but realistic about how it was going to look.

Summer arrived, the weather was sometimes good, and I was able to see many local families enjoying the range of activities and events that were organised by the Town Council's Events Team. They were necessarily different this year, but I have had very positive feedback which is always appreciated.

I was particularly pleased to see that the summer markets had a good range of traders and were well attended. The events team also added activities and events on market days, which were different, wide ranging and I hope interesting.

The weather cooperated, well mostly, for the outdoor events that were organised to celebrate NHS and Frontline Workers Day on the 5th July. It was the first time that the nation celebrated the formation of the NHS 73 years previously, on the 5th July 1948. The day started with a flag raising ceremony followed by 2 minutes silence at 11 am. The Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis, kindly attended the event, which was a tribute to the hard work of all of those NHS and frontline staff who had kept working, to support the nation, during the Covid 19 pandemic. During the morning I was able to show the Lord Lieutenant the Medieval Physic Garden and the wonderful summer planting in Priory Gardens, which she greatly admired. She was also able to have a preview of the Leading Ladies Exhibition in Priory House; this is now open to the public and I hope that as many residents as possible will go and visit this highly informative exhibition that celebrates the lives of many women, past and present, who were influential in our Town.

Following the flag raising and last post on NHS and Frontline Workers Day, I also hosted a Garden Party for thirty people, who were representing a wide range of local and national frontline organisations. We were able to enjoy refreshments, a glass of fizz to "Toast the Heroes" and entertainment on the lawns of Priory House.

It seems that every time I write in Talk of the Town, I mention the lovely flower displays that we have in Dunstable, and this year they have again been wonderful. I hope that you have all enjoyed them as much as I have and have noticed the extra planters and hanging baskets that the Town Council's Grounds team and Dunstable in Bloom volunteers have placed around the Town. They have certainly extended the Town centre and parks displays to other parts of the town.

Last month I attended the Last Night of the Proms which had not been held last year. The grounds of Priory Gardens were full of people, with blankets, picnic baskets, drinks and seats, eagerly awaiting the start of the festivities. It was a wonderful evening of music ending in a short fireworks display which we all sat and watched, before packing up our belongings and heading home.

My last outdoor event of the summer was attending Around the World, and a delayed Festival of Archaeology, both held together in Grove House Gardens. I was so pleased to see the large number of residents enjoying the late summer sun and taking part in the activities. I did try my hand at thatching, but am not planning a change in career anytime soon!

We now have to look forward to cooler days and longer nights as we head towards the end of the year. Christmas will soon be with us and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the events planned.

Councillor Gloria Martin

Town Mayor of Dunstable



David Ashlee
Town Clerk
& Chief Executive

Welcome to the winter edition of Talk of the Town and I am pleased to be introducing an edition that can still feature how the Town Council is planning to help Dunstable celebrate Christmas despite the ongoing Pandemic.

Before touching on upcoming Council services and events, I must acknowledge the fantastic efforts of all of my staff over the summer. Despite suffering ourselves from the effects of Covid on staffing levels, my team were able to put on a brilliant summer activities programme that not only featured Bennett's Splash and the Splashside Café, but a range of activities for all ages in our parks and open spaces in addition to very well attended events such as the Classic Motor Rally, Proms in the Park, Priory Pictures, and Middle Row Markets. Our summer floral displays and 'Welcome Back Fund' initiatives such as the 'giant squirrel' in Grove House Gardens have received lots of public praise and has certainly helped to get visitors back into Dunstable's town centre.

This edition of Talk of the Town not only features what the Town Council will be offering by way of its Christmas programme; it also has a special feature on your democratically elected representatives. Representatives on Dunstable Town Council were all elected by you and all of them are proud to serve their residents without any financial reward and all 18 Councillors are committed to trying to make Dunstable a better place.

Also featured is how Central Bedfordshire Council is progressing with the High Street improvement scheme which is now beginning to come to fruition and is certainly improving the look and flow of the High Street.

This edition also features everything that the Town Council will be doing over Christmas, and I am particularly looking forward to the new Winter Lights Festival that will be launched in late November in Grove House Gardens. This is a new venture for the Council, and I really hope that all of our readers will visit the Gardens to view the FREE Festival.

I hope you find this edition of Talk of the Town informative and please feel free to comment on any of the Council's services using the comment form at the back of this edition or by visiting our website www.dunstable.gov.uk or following us on Twitter and Facebook.

Please continue to adhere to Government guidance on remaining safe during this Covid-19 Pandemic. I hope that all Dunstable residents are able to enjoy Christmas as best they can, and I also hope that residents and visitors to Dunstable can continue to visit and enjoy the town centre as our local economy is so important to us all.

Stay safe.

David Ashlee

Town Clerk and Chief Executive

Destination

Keeping you abreast of town
centre news, initiatives and
developments

DUNSTABLE

Twilight Market

Join us again for our popular Twilight Market, with extended hours this year. A magical Christmas Market experience in Middle Row and The Square.

Friday 10 December from 4.00 pm to 9.00 pm Saturday 11 December from 12 noon to 9.00 pm Sunday 12 December from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

Magical Christmas lighting and a free children's Carousel, polar bear, naughty and nice elves and even a touch of snow. Listen to the Victorian carol singers whilst Christmas shopping. Over thirty stalls selling local crafts, unique gifts, hot food and mulled wine.

Christmas
all wrapped up
in Dunstable at
our Twilight
Market

#WELCOME BACK Dunstable

We've missed you...



HM Government



New Christmas Lighting

This year Dunstable Town Council will be starting a phased replacement of its Christmas lighting. New Christmas tree lights will take pride of place on the 30ft Christmas tree which has been sponsored by Neville Funerals.

The trees along Church Street and Ashton Square will have new lighting as well as new lamp column decorations in both areas.

Christmas Window Competition

We are again asking all the shops to enter our Christmas window competition. We had a fantastic response last year with three winners and a gift for all those who entered.

Let us light up Dunstable with a feast of Christmas windows.

To find out more please contact
annette.clynes@dunstable.gov.uk



Christmas & New Year

Santa's Sleigh Selfie

Priory House

Monday 15 November to Thursday 23 December
10.00 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Saturday

Come to Priory House to create your perfect family picture for your festive Christmas card or a memorable keepsake.

As well as visiting Santa's sleigh, children can also write a free letter to Santa and post it in our polar express postbox.



Winter Lights Festival

Grove House Gardens

Wednesday 24 November 2021
to Friday 7 January 2022

Christmas starts with a switch on of the spectacular new FREE Winter Light trail in Grove House Gardens on Wednesday 24 November at 6.00 pm.

Come and join us for an evening for all the family. Explore the displays throughout the park and enjoy the different colours and animations. Walk through the tunnel of light, play with the interactive features, enjoy the different effects and maybe take a selfie or two with the contemporary cone of light, the illuminated bandstand or the giant bauble.

This FREE light installation will be on every day from dusk until 11.00 pm until Friday 7 January 2022. No need to book, just enjoy a stroll through our magically lit wonderland...



**#WELCOME BACK
Dunstable**

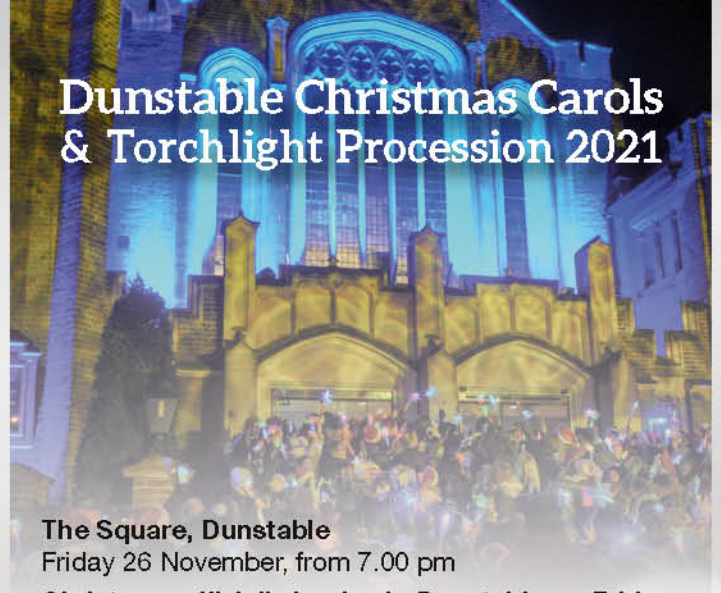
We've missed you...



HM Government



Dunstable Christmas Carols & Torchlight Procession 2021



The Square, Dunstable

Friday 26 November, from 7.00 pm

Christmas officially begins in Dunstable on Friday 26 November when the annual Christmas celebration brings everyone together to enjoy the festive activities.

Join us on The Square with the school choirs of Dunstable to sing carols, along with the stars from Grove Theatre's Pantomime Aladdin, plus meet Father Christmas and turn on the Christmas Tree lights with a fantastic light show spectacular.

There is no better way for you to get excited this Christmas season. There will be plenty of food and drink plus Christmas stalls for you to start your Christmas shopping this year all down Middle Row as well as Priory House opening late serving a festive menu with an outside bar.

Please be aware for the Christmas Carols and Torchlight event, High Street South will be closed from the crossroads junction of West Street/Church Street/A5183 to Friars Walk from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm. There will be a diversion in place. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Dunstable Town Council really hope that this event can go ahead, however if Government regulations are introduced or schools find themselves unable to attend this could mean the event is cancelled.

Please check on any changes via the website
www.dunstable.gov.uk

Santa Paws and Prints

Priory Gardens

Saturday 4 December, 11.00 am to 3.00 pm

A Santa's throne will be on display in Priory Gardens for the 'Purrfect' prop for your pet Christmas photos, to either make a Christmas gift or a beautiful keepsake.

Take a picture on your phone, or buy a print from the photographer on site. (Prints are chargeable.)

All pets welcome and various props available.



PRIORY HOUSE AT Christmas

Christmas Afternoon Tea



The festive seasons starts at Priory House on Monday 22 November until 23 December.

£20.50 per adult. £11 per child (under 12's)

Celebrate the festive season with a delicious homemade Afternoon Tea, with a selection of festive filled sandwiches, homemade savouries and cakes plus freshly baked scones with homemade jam served with whipped cream.

Dietary requirements can be accommodated for. Please advise staff at the time of booking and ensure that you book at least four days in advance.

To Book your Festive Afternoon Tea Please email prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk or call 01582 891

The Perfect Christmas Gift

Do you fancy treating someone to an Afternoon Tea in the New Year?

You can purchase an Afternoon Tea for two voucher online at dunstable.gov.uk/product/afternoon-tea-vouchers/



Christmas Wreath Making

Thursday 2 December
6.00 pm to 10.00 pm £35 per person.
(Groups of 4 or more will receive a free bottle of Prosecco.)

Sunday 12 December
Family Session
11.00 am to 2.00 pm £35 per adult
£15 per child (6+) all children must be accompanied.

Come to Priory House this Christmas and have fun with friends or family as you make your own Christmas wreath. All equipment will be provided and children will receive a festive snack and drink. To book visit www.dunstable.gov.uk/prioryhouse

Elf School & Christmas Cracker Workshops

Monday 20 December, 1.00 pm to 2.45 pm &
Tuesday 21 December, 10 am to 11.45 am

Join the Priory House Elf School and create Christmas Crackers for the whole family. Children can be dropped off at Priory House, while you go last-minute Christmas shopping in town. Festive snacks and drinks provided.

For more information and to purchase a ticket book online at www.dunstable.gov.uk/prioryhouse

For children
Aged 6+.

£12
per
child.



Christmas Jumper Pudding Nights

Friday 3 December 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm
Friday 17 December 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm

Our hugely popular Christmas Pudding Nights are back, and this year we want you to celebrate the Christmas Jumper. The winner of the best Christmas Jumper on the night will receive their pudding for FREE.

£8 per person, includes a pudding of choice plus a glass of Prosecco, Mulled Wine, Beer or a hot drink. More drinks, cocktails and pudding can be purchased on the night.

To book your table visit www.dunstable.gov.uk/prioryhouse

Crafting with Gems

Thursday 9 December
5.30 pm to 8.30 pm £15 per person
(suitable for 10 yrs+)

Enjoy making a charm bracelet and gemstone earrings with friends or the family. Ideal for a teenage get-together. Includes a free mocktail on arrival.



Beading & Bubbles

Thursday 16 December 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm £30 per person
Get creative and make your very own charm bracelet and gemstone earrings

Enjoy unlimited Prosecco or Mulled Wine whilst making a charm bracelet and gemstone earrings to make the perfect Christmas gift for yourself or a friend. All equipment provided. The Tearooms will be open serving drinks, cocktails and a festive menu.





CREASEY KICKZ
FOOTBALL PARTIES



BAR & FOOD



FUNCTION
HIRE



CLUB
PRESENTATIONS



PITCH HIRE



CORPORATE

WE'RE BACK!



SO COME DOWN TO CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THERE IS TO ENJOY.

The football league season has resumed with mid-week and weekend matches on the main stadium pitch.

Come and support AFC Dunstable 1st, Development, Ladies, U18 teams and Dunstable Town Football Club 1st and U18 teams.

For a full list of fixtures visit
www.afcdunstable.co.uk and www.dunstabletownfc.co.uk

Whilst watching a match take advantage of our match day deals on food, drink and many other offerings from the Keepers Kitchen and fully licensed Crossbar.

Our clubhouse is open weekdays 5.00 pm to 10.00 pm. Everyone is welcome with Live BT Sport showing Champions League and Europa League games.

**Experience with friends our
NEW covered outdoor seating area!**

Sample something from our menu, the Kids Boxes are perfect for a quick and convenient option for your children's dinner.



THINKING ABOUT YOUR 2022 FUNCTION OR EVENT?

The Venue at Creasey Park is the perfect place and bookings are going quickly.

For more information email
cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk



Dunstable Town Council and Committee Meetings

Forthcoming meetings are set out below.

All meetings are held at 7pm unless marked.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

15 November 2021

Plans Sub - Committee

16 November 2021

Dunstable Joint Committee

2 December 2021

COUNCIL

6 December 2021

Plans Sub - Committee

7 December

2022 DATES

Community Services Committee

10 January 2022

Grounds and Environmental Services

17 January 2022

Finance and General Purposes Committee

24 January 2022

COUNCIL (Precept)

14 February 2022

young

DUNSTABLE



pokemon club

is a session for young people catered and targeted towards everything relating to Pokémon.

The session is for young people aged between 8 to 18 years of age. The sessions run on Tuesday evenings during term time; splitting the sessions into two groups, the first is for those aged 8 to 13 and runs from 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm and the second is for those aged 14 to 18 and runs from 6.45 pm to 8.15pm.

The club isn't just for Pokémon, but is also a space for young people to come and see friends, to have time to chill out, play pool, table football, use the gaming suite and more than anything just have a safe space to come and relax with their peers.

Pokémon club has been running consistently now for several years at Grove Corner, growing year by year. Our aim is for it to keep growing and to continue to offer a safe space for young people to come and express their love and passion for Pokémon.

Some Pokémon features that are available at the club are; Pokémon battles with friends and members who attend, trading, Pokémon battles using the gaming suite; Nintendo switches with two different multi player Pokémon games and finally competing on a specialised Pokémon board game.

We also sell Pokémon playing card packs and bundles.

If you or anyone you know likes Pokémon, wants to learn more or wants to try out Grove Corner, then send them our way! We're always welcoming new members.

For more information contact
grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk

or call 01582 891 435

Grove Corner

Youth & Community Hub



Monday Drop-in (FREE)

3.45 pm to 5.15 pm
13 – 15 year olds



Tuesday Pokémon (FREE)

5.00 pm to 6.30 pm | 6.45pm to 8.15pm
8 – 13 year olds | 14 – 18 year olds



Wednesday Gaming (FREE)

5.15 pm to 6.45 pm | 7.00pm to 6.45pm
13 – 15 year olds | 16 – 18 year olds



Friday Juniors (FREE)

6.00 pm to 7.45 pm | 8.00pm to 9.30pm
10 – 12 year olds | 16 – 18 year olds

- ✓ Pool Table
- ✓ Table Football
- ✓ VR's
- ✓ Nintendo Switch
- ✓ Gaming Suite



[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GroveCornerDunstable) GroveCornerDunstable [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/GroveCorner) @GroveCorner

www.dunstable.gov.uk

grovecorner@dunstable.gov.uk

01582 891 434

Celebrating Dunstable's Green Spaces



Image by Justyna Tarnacka

This year a number of Dunstable's green spaces, landscaped areas and community projects were chosen to represent the town in regional and national competitions and campaigns.

The town entered three projects in the Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom Community Awards. 118 projects were judged nationwide. The Incredible Edible project at Katherine Drive was chosen by the RHS judges as one of twenty-one 'Outstanding' community projects across the country. The 2 other Dunstable projects at Weatherfield Academy and the Dunstable High Street were awarded 'Achievement' certificates.

High Street Sustainable Planting

The recent planting and landscaping works in Dunstable Town Centre including the sustainable rain gardens at West Street and High Street South have been entered in the 'Green Solutions' category. Each border is designed to prevent flooding by collecting surface water in a tank below. Plant species, including shrubs, grasses and perennials that are climate resilient have been used to create colour and interest throughout the year.

Incredible Edible Katherine Drive

This community 'Come and Grow' project, which is now in its 9th year, was entered in the 'Nourishing Your Community' category. The garden is an organic, edible landscape created from a neglected piece of wasteland and now provides free food and a place of sanctuary for local people. Incredible volunteers are committed to cultivating and maintaining the garden to benefit the community and future generations.

THE RHS judges had this to say about the project:

'You have demonstrated well how the project has impacted on the community in many ways. In particular, we liked how the transformation of a derelict space has raised awareness of growing vegetables to a wider range of people in the community, and how businesses have got involved in the project. The range of people involved in creating and maintaining the garden, from school children to residents of the local care home is diverse and very inclusive. And it is great that you have also involved a mental health charity and the probation service in the garden, further extending your links and networks.'

Well done to the team at Incredible Edible Dunstable.

Image by Sahira Ward



Image by Nicolla Drury

Incredible Edible Katherine Drive (Top).
Weatherfield Academy (Above).

Weatherfield Academy

The Academy were invited to enter their wildlife gardens and environmentally friendly activities in the 'Nature Friendly Gardening' category. This year marks Weatherfield Academy's 50th Anniversary. The school has 156 students aged 7-19 years, with special educational needs. The wonderful learning environment and nature friendly gardens and grounds are cared for by the students themselves. The school community can enjoy sitting in the tranquil gardens, perhaps with a rabbit on a lap, listening to the birds and bees.

Anglia in Bloom Success.

In addition to these three projects, Dunstable in Bloom entered ten projects and green spaces into the Anglia in Bloom competition.

Dunstable Cemetery was awarded the overall winner and a gold medal in the Cemetery and Churchyard category and Priory Gardens was awarded overall winner and a gold medal in the Best Local Authority Planting category



Green Flag Awards

The Council is also pleased to announce that Priory Gardens, Grove House Gardens and Dunstable Cemetery have all retained their Green Flag status in 2021.

Priory Gardens has also retained its Green Heritage status. The new flags are now flying at all three sites.



DUNSTABLE Hi! STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE

We hope everyone is familiar with the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) by now, if not please check out the Town Centre section of the Town Council's website for details.

The Community Engagement strand of the HSHAZ includes events and activities related to the HSHAZ, heritage, history and culture run by Dunstable Town Council.

The Community Services Team have enjoyed undertaking HSHAZ related community engagement since May 2021 including at markets, during **Love Parks Week**, **Roar into Archaeology**, **Ashton Square Day** and **Around the World** combined with the **Festival of Archaeology**.

If you have not been able to visit any of the activities, we hope the photos here will give you a flavour of some of the activities to date!



If you have visited any of these activities and have any photos you are happy to share, please share them on the HSHAZ Facebook Page and Instagram tagging **@HistoricEngland** and **#HistoricHighStreets**.

We would also love to hear your views. What events and activities would you like to see as part of the HSHAZ up until the end of March 2024?

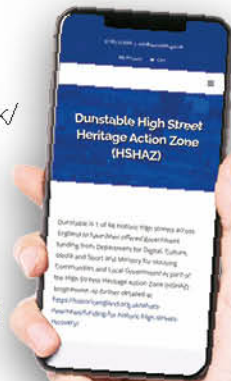
Please get in touch via info@Dunstable.gov.uk with any ideas and suggestions. Similarly, if you would like to get involved and steer the community engagement element of the HSHAZ programme we would love to hear from you too! You don't have to commit lots of time.

Would you like to keep up to date with HSHAZ news?

Check out the **HSHAZ** Pages on DTC's Website www.dunstable.gov.uk/town-centre/dunstable-high-street-heritage-action-zone-hshaz/

and the **HSHAZ** Facebook Page [@DunstableHSHAZ](https://www.facebook.com/DunstableHSHAZ)

and follow the **HSHAZ** Instagram [@hazdunstable](https://www.instagram.com/hazdunstable)



If you want to know more about the programme or have any queries, please do get in touch with **Michelle Collings** (High Street Heritage Action Zone Programme Manager) via info@Dunstable.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire

It's an exciting time for Dunstable

Central Bedfordshire Council are investing in your High Street and much more.

Central Bedfordshire Council want to create a more pleasant, safe and attractive High Street, reducing the sense of vehicles dominating the road, giving greater priority to pedestrians and cyclists and improving accessibility between and within different parts of the town centre. We aim to improve the identity of the High Street by creating a more traditional town centre that reflects the unique history of the area as well as attracting investors and people to live and work in the area.

Work is also underway on a new community-focused £43 million Integrated Health and Care Hub, together with homes for older people. When complete the hub will transform the way health and care services are provided so local people can be better supported in the community, with access to more joined up working between hospitals and community-based services. It is being built on the site behind GO Bowling, off Court Drive. The new homes will provide 98 one and two-bedroom apartments for those over 55. The residents of which will benefit from town centre living and also by having access to the health services of the hub right on their doorstep.



To find out more scan the QR code to view our fly through CGIs which show what the hub and new homes will look like.



These are just some of the many investments Central Bedfordshire Council have been making to improve Dunstable, including the new Leisure Centre and Library at the Dunstable Centre and new Creasey Park Community Football Centre facilities. We are also exploring opportunities for town centre living, including potential plans to develop the former Magistrates and Ambulance station and Vernon Place.

Central Bedfordshire Council are working in partnership with Luton & Dunstable Resilient and Active Communities, and we have a robust flood risk strategy, working in partnership with the Environment Agency. We continue to strive to bring external investment into Dunstable, for example through the government's Welcome Back Fund.

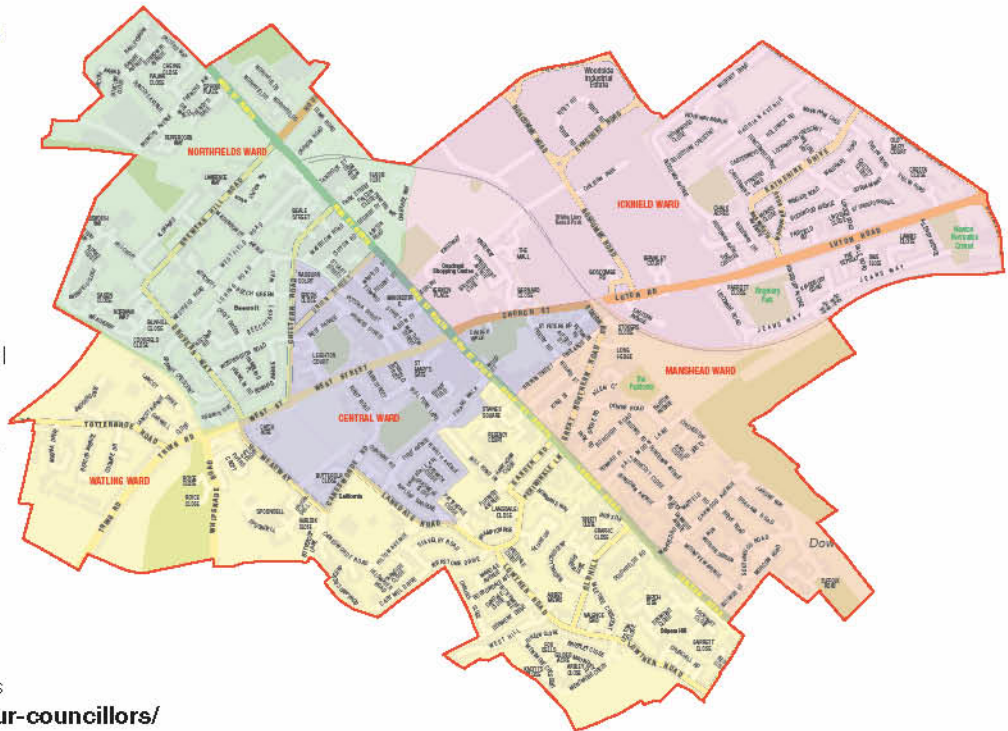


Our Council Members

All Dunstable Town Councillors are proud to serve their ward residents. Elected in 2019, all Councillors will serve a four-year term until May 2023, when they all have to stand down pending the outcome of new elections.

Whilst working with colleagues from Central Bedfordshire Council, Dunstable Town Council is a completely separate organisation with its own resources, Constitution and Standing Orders that govern how the Council operates. It is important to note that unlike Councillors on Central Bedfordshire Council, no Town Councillors receive any financial reward for undertaking their Council duties. They stand for Council on a voluntary basis with the sole intention of 'helping to make Dunstable a better place'.

Details on all your Dunstable Town Councillors can be found at www.dunstable.gov.uk/your-councillors/



Sid Abbott, Conservative Party | Icknield Ward



Chairman of the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee and Leader of the Conservative Group on the Council. He is also keen to introduce green initiatives to reduce the environmental impacts of Council core activities and reduce costs, improve transport, businesses, and recreation in line with the post pandemic culture changes for a sustainable and quality lifestyle.

Matthew Brennan, Labour Party | Northfields Ward



A member of the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee and Grounds and Environmental Services Committee and Leader of the Labour Group on the Council; Matthew is a mechanic and a passionate Dunstablian. He has served on the Council since 2019.

Wendy Bater, Labour Party | Manshead Ward



Wendy has been on the Council since 2019 and serves on the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee and Community Services Committee. She also represents the Council on the Dunstable Citizens Advice Bureau Committee

Mark Cant, Labour Party | Manshead Ward



Mark has been on the Council since 2019 and serves on the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee, Grounds and Environmental Services Committee and Plans Sub-Committee.

Lisa Bird, Conservative Party | Central Ward



Chairman of the Council's Grounds and Environmental Services Committee, Lisa has lived in Dunstable for almost 30 years. As a former shopkeeper, she enjoys working with the local business community to look at ways of helping to promote businesses, shops, and facilities. She also has an interest in environmental issues and services.

Alan Corkhill, Conservative Party | Northfields Ward



A member of the Council's Grounds and Environmental Services Committee and Community Services Committee, Alan is committed to the ideal of service. He is excited to bring his experience as a Rotarian to Dunstable Town Council and hopes to add to the progress within the town. He has lived in Dunstable for nearly 40 years.

Philip Crawley, Conservative Party | Manshead Ward



A member of the Council's Grounds and Environmental Services Committee, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Plans Sub-Committee and Appeals and Appointments Sub-Committee; Philip has been on the Council since 2019.

Greg George, Conservative Party | Central Ward



A member of the Council's Grounds and Environmental Services Committee and Community Services Committee, Greg is passionate about the issues that affect the town and is looking forward to helping shape the future of Dunstable, a great town full of great people and he is delighted and honoured to have their support.

Pamela Ghent, Conservative Party | Watling Ward



A member of the Council's Grounds and Environmental Services Committee and Community Services Committee, Pamela has lived in Dunstable for 40 years. She works in a local nursery school and thinks Dunstable is a great town to live in offering many social events for families.

John Gurney, Dunstable Independents | Icknield Ward



A member of the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee and Community Services Committee, Plans sub-committee, and Personnel sub-committee. John is the Leader of the Dunstable Independents. He is a trustee to the Men in Sheds representing the Town Council. He has been a Councillor since 2019. John has a PGCE specialising in teaching adults as well ESOL but is currently the full-time carer.

Kenson Gurney, Dunstable Independents | Icknield Ward



A member of the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee and Grounds and Environmental Services Committee, Kenson has been on the Council since 2019. Kenson was born in the family home in Brandreth Avenue. He went to Hadrian, Mill Vale and Manshead schools, Kenson is a specialist industrial software engineer.

Peter Hollick, Conservative Party | Watling Ward



Chairman of the Council's Community Services Committee and a member of the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee, Peter has lived in Dunstable for 36 years. He served on the County Council between 1993-2009; Central Bedfordshire Council between 2009-2019 (Chairman 2010-2012). He was Town Mayor 2016-2017 and 2020-2021 and has a keen interest in the development of Dunstable.

Liz Jones, Conservative Party | Watling Ward



Deputy Town Mayor and member of the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee, Grounds and Environmental Services Committee and Community Services Committee. Liz is also on the Council's Plans Sub-Committee, Appeals and Appointments Sub-Committee and the Dunstable Joint Committee. Liz has been a Councillor since 2009 and was Mayor of Dunstable during 2015/16. Liz represents the Town Council on the Hospice at Home Management Committee and Dunstable Poorlands Charity.

Gloria Martin, Conservative Party | Icknield Ward



The current Town Mayor, Gloria is also on the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee, Community Services Committee, Grounds and Environmental Services Committee, Dunstable Joint Committee, the Personnel Sub-Committee and Appeals and Appointments Sub-Committee. Gloria has been a Councillor since 2009 and was also Mayor during 2017/18. She represents the Council on the South Beds Dial-a-Ride Management Committee and Dunstable Town Band Management Committee.

Cameron Restall, Conservative Party | Watling Ward



A member of the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee, Community Services Committee (Vice-Chairman) and Plans Sub-Committee, Cameron has been on the Council since 2019.

Lee Roberts, Conservative Party | Central Ward



A member of the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee and Community Services Committee, Lee has been on the Council since 2019. He is a proud resident and business owner in Dunstable.

Gladys Sanders, Conservative Party | Northfields Ward



A member of the Council's Grounds and Environmental Services Committee and Community Services Committee, Gladys has been on the Council since 2019.

Johnson Tamara, Conservative Party | Northfields Ward



A member of the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee and Grounds and Environmental Services Committee, Johnson has been on the Council since 2019.

Spotlight

Grant Walpole
Community Services Assistant



Grant, when did you join the team?

I joined the team full time in my new role, in July 2021 but had been working as a Youth and Community Sessional Worker since 2010.

What does your role involve?

I work with various groups in the community. My background is primarily with young people, but with my new role I get to work with all members of the community which is exciting. I look forward to meeting many people over the coming year at various events and activities.

We hear you like Pokémon?

Yeah, I lead the Pokémon project based out of Grove Corner every Tuesday during term time for young people. I have been working within the Pokémon group for a few years so have some knowledge of the characters, but in recent months have become more of an expert! My favourite character is Machop as he is a boxer like me!

What does community mean to you?

Community means family, being able to help and support all individuals and become as one. It is also about making a difference and be inclusive to all.

Finally, what is one piece of advice you would give to people?

Never give up.

Remembrance

Dunstable remembers the men and women of the town who have suffered or died in conflict.

This year's Remembrance Parade and Service will be held on Sunday 14 November 2021. The parade of the town's ex-service and uniformed organisations will assemble in Grove House Gardens (at the rear of Grove House) at 10.15 am and will then march to the War Memorial in Priory Gardens, via High Street North to

the crossroads and traffic lights, then down High Street South to Priory House where the Town Mayor will take the salute. The parade will then form up at the memorial for the Act of Remembrance and wreath-laying ceremony at 11.00 am. There will also be a short service at the War Memorial to mark Armistice Day on Thursday 11 November at

11.00 am. Members of the public are most welcome to take part in Dunstable's Act of Remembrance. Dunstable Town Council are once again keen to involve as many young people of the town as possible and would like to encourage representatives from schools in the town to take part in the parade and wreath laying.

For further information or advice on how you can get involved please contact Ian Reed on 01582 891401 or email ian.reed@dunstable.gov.uk

Community Matters

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Back in June, The Big Lunch made a return. However, this year was different to the previous lunches. Due to the pandemic and still being in lockdown, Big Lunch 2021 ran virtually. Those who attended received an afternoon tea, flower and information pack the day before the lunch took place. There were still the normal highlights of Big Lunch; with live music from Somethin' Else and Joe Corrigan; quizzes and entertainment from our host Darren Woodhouse, and lots of smiles across everyone's screens.

Big Lunch 2022 will be taking place in person and in conjunction with the Queen's Jubilee.

More information will be available in the New Year on Dunstable Town Council's website and Facebook page.

Boat Trip

In September members of both the Good Companions Club and the Creasey Park Community Football Centre Lunch Club enjoyed a leisurely day on the canal.

This trip was open to everyone of all abilities as both the coach and boat were wheelchair accessible. Members enjoyed a fish & chip lunch on board the boat and even had the opportunity to help work the locks and steer the boat. Thankfully the weather was very kind to us. After the last 18 months this was a very much needed day out, enjoyed by all.



We couldn't do
our trips without
the help and support
of our wonderful
volunteers so many
thanks to all of
them too!





Services Dunstable Town Council Provides For You

Main Council Reception 01582 513000

For more information visit www.dunstable.gov.uk

Grounds and Environmental Services

Cemetery Management

Maintenance of grounds, grave preparation, burial and memorial arrangements
Dunstable Cemetery, West Street, Dunstable LU6 1PD
01582 891428 | cemetery@dunstable.gov.uk

Parks and Open Spaces

Maintenance of grounds, sport pitches and skate park, litter picking, dog bins, grass cutting
Freephone 0800 013 0350 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Allotments

Plot lettings and maintenance of sites
01582 891426 | allotments@dunstable.gov.uk

Play Areas

Maintenance, inspections and cleansing
Freephone 0800 013 0350 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Town Centre Maintenance

Maintenance of raised beds, grassed areas and floral displays
01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Maintenance of Priory & Grove House Gardens

Grounds maintenance, litter picking, dog bins
01582 891413 | john.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk

Town Ranger & Town Centre Ranger

Cleaning up the public places in Dunstable
Freephone 0800 013 0350

Grove Skate Park

01582 513000 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Bennett's Splash & Splashside Café

01582 891433 | cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk

Mayoral and Democratic Services

Remembrance Day Parade and Service, Mayor's Charity Events, Civic Services, Democratic Representation
01582 891401 | ian.reed@dunstable.gov.uk

Community Services

Town Centre Management

Economic regeneration, Christmas lights, Ashton Square public toilets and twice-monthly markets
01582 891436 | annette.clynes@dunstable.gov.uk

Events Programme including:

Dunstable Live, Party in the Park, Proms in the Park
01582 891407 | events@dunstable.gov.uk

Priory House Heritage Centre

TIC, weddings, tea rooms and gift shop
Priory House Heritage Centre, 33 High St South, Dunstable LU6 3RZ
01582 891420 | prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk

Grove Corner Young People's Centre

76a High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF
01582 891434 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Older People's Support Service

Good Companions day care, CPCFC Lunch Club
01582 891434 | info@dunstable.gov.uk

Creasey Park Community Football Centre

Artificial/grass pitches, function room, licensed bar, BMX track
Creasey Park Drive, Dunstable LU6 1BB
01582 891433 or 07712 861618 | cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk

Peter Newton Pavilion (Managed by Beds FA)

Century House, Skimpot Road, Dunstable LU5 4JU | 01582 565111

Downside Community Centre

Licensed to Conroys Ringside Boxing Club
Suffolk Road, Downside Estate, Dunstable | 07794 692747

High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ)

michelle.collings@dunstable.gov.uk | 07593 553653

For any queries relating to Council Tax, Housing Benefits, Refuse or Highways please contact Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8000 or email customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

TALK of the TOWN

We Welcome Your Feedback

We would appreciate your comments on the services we provide and anything you have read in this edition of Talk of the Town. While our offices are not fully operational to accept the usual feedback form, we would encourage you to email your comments to info@dunstable.gov.uk using the subject reference: 'TotT 90 November 2021'.