

Winter 2022



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KINGSTON
UPON THAMES

*Surbiton
dementia home*
OPENS

Next steps on
**COMMUNITY
LEISURE CENTRE**

Supporting
OUR
high streets

Your

KINGSTON



kingston.gov.uk

Your Kingston is a magazine filled with local news and community information produced by Kingston Council's Communications Team.

Get in touch



COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

If you'd like to contribute to the magazine or share any feedback, please email: communications@kingston.gov.uk



DIFFERENT FORMATS

Alternative formats are available on request - please contact 020 8547 5000



SIGN UP TO OUR E-NEWSLETTER

You can also sign up to our e-newsletter at kingston.gov.uk/newsletter



LET'S TALK

You can join our engagement portal to have your say on local issues: kingstonletstalk.co.uk



CONNECTED KINGSTON

A one-stop-shop for local activities and services and a chance to connect with your community. Visit connectedkingston.uk



MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the council, to contact us or to report an issue, visit kingston.gov.uk



NEED HELP ONLINE?

Take a look at the support and advice we offer: kingston.gov.uk/KingstonOnline



Welcome to the digital winter edition of Your Kingston.

The cost of living crisis is affecting us all and we want to help as much as we can.

We've been working with partners to boost support for residents and businesses. As our community response to the pandemic proved, Kingston is stronger when working together with the voluntary and community sector, our partners and communities.

As the weather gets colder, we are working with partners on opening up warm spaces across the borough. Anyone can come along and find services such as free wifi, computers, advice and guidance, and sometimes games and a free hot drink. Find out more, as well as lots of help and advice, on our website kingston.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport

We continue our work to tackle climate change and this year we launched our first Sustainable September. This gave us an opportunity to highlight sustainable initiatives across the borough.

One example is our work with Thames Water to create the first district heating system powered by sewage as part of the Cambridge Road Estate regeneration. The regeneration is now underway and will see over 2,100 high-quality, sustainable homes built on this site.

Another priority is providing state-of-the-art leisure and community facilities. Demolition

of the old Kingfisher Leisure Centre is nearly complete and we are now looking for a construction partner to build the new sustainable centre.

We are also increasing support for our vulnerable adults and for our young people. Three new schools are set to be delivered over the next few years, meaning more places for local families.

Finally, I am delighted to say we have opened our specialist dementia home called Surbitonian Gardens at Poppy Court. You can read more about this on page nine.

Our plans are ambitious but they promise to make Kingston an even more wonderful borough in the years to come.

Andreas

Councillor Andreas Kirsch
Leader of Kingston Council

Contents

Front cover

9 Surbiton dementia care home opens



4-5 Protecting our environment and tackling climate change

Have a look inside...

6-7 Community leisure complex takes next step forward

10 Keeping Kingston moving

13 Spotlight on the community

8 Shaping the future of Kingston

11 High streets recovery across the borough

14 Be kind to your body and mind

9 Borough's first specialist dementia care home opened in Surbiton

12 Winners and charities celebrate Kingston Community Lottery

15 Kingston Council stands with Ukraine



Protecting our ENVIRONMENT AND TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Sustainable September

Throughout September, the council worked together with community groups to host events and promote and share information about how all of us can do our bit to help protect the environment and tackle climate change.

The council's 'Sustainable September' saw bat and nature walks, foraging trips, eco home open days, bike maintenance sessions, plastic-free arts and crafts for children, webinars and more taking place throughout the month.

On Sunday 25 September, community groups arranged GreenZone in Kingston's Ancient Market Place. There were speakers talking about a range of environmental topics, opportunities to ask experts questions and entertainment throughout the day.



Well done and thank you to everyone who took part in Sustainable September, we hope it got you thinking about what you can do to protect the environment.

Visit [kingston.gov.uk/climate](https://www.kingston.gov.uk/climate) where you can find the council's Climate Action Plan, setting out how we aim to become carbon neutral by 2030, and support the rest of the borough to do the same by 2038.



Green Business Community

We are working with Kingston Chamber of Commerce and partners to provide a forum for businesses that are committed to environmental sustainability and strive to innovate and grow faster than their competitors.

It will be a free-to-join community of businesses and organisations of all sizes and sectors, which will help members to save resources, as well as reduce their environmental impact and running costs.

Collaborative work with experts and other organisations will lead to solutions that reduce local emissions and allow access to funding.

If you run a business in the borough, you can apply to become a member of Kingston Green Business Community by completing this [short form](#).



Food waste

Kingston's residents are some of the best recyclers in London! There's still room for improvement when it comes to food waste though. When the new electric waste fleet hits the streets, food waste will be collected separately, but still on your normal collection day.

According to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP): "If every UK household stopped wasting food for one day, it could do the same for greenhouse gas emissions as planting 640,000 trees per day".

Cutting food waste and using the food waste recycling service is one of the easiest and most impactful ways to help reduce emissions.

Planning your meals ahead of time can save you money and prevent food from going to waste.

Take a look at [lovefoodhatewaste.com](https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) for loads of great recipes and advice to help you get the most from the food you buy.



Electric waste lorries

Each month, roughly 800,000 bins are emptied across Kingston and the vehicles which collect them are nearing the end of their operational lives.

As a council, we are committed to providing essential services while limiting the impact we have on the environment, which is why we have decided to replace the vehicles with zero-emission, electric versions.

By introducing an electric waste fleet, we'll help improve air quality by taking the equivalent of 450 cars off the road each year, and reducing the associated greenhouse gas emissions by 75%. We'll also be one of the first council's to introduce a fully electric waste fleet to its borough.

Keep an eye out for the new vehicles which will be out and about undertaking collections in the future.





Community leisure complex TAKES NEXT STEP FORWARD

After receiving over **7,000** responses from residents last year, the creation of a **brand new** state-of-the-art **leisure and community complex** right in the heart of Kingston Town Centre is making solid **progress**.

The new facility will include 5-a-side rooftop football pitches, two swimming pools with spectator seating, a children's splash deck and climbing wall, as well as flexible community spaces, a cafe and much more.

All of this will be included within a sustainable building that delivers inclusive activities for everyone to get involved.



The demolition process started in the summer, and the council is now moving towards putting the building of the new complex out for tender. Construction is expected to commence soon after the contract has been awarded to the successful bidder and the timeline for the completion is on track.

The new leisure complex will be more energy-efficient, inclusive and sustainable than the old Kingfisher facility. This focus on sustainability has started already, with the demolition contractors ensuring that as many bits of debris and larger objects from the old building, are able to be recycled as possible. This includes bricks and concrete being crushed and reused as hardcore on site.

"The new community leisure centre in Kingston will regenerate and revitalise the town centre at a time when the borough's economy and its communities need it most. It will provide accessible leisure facilities fit for the 21st Century so everyone has the chance to live happy and healthier lives."

Councillor Andreas Kirsch,
Leader of Kingston Council



A seamless connection with the neighbouring library, museum and Fairfield Recreation Ground is an important part of the project, alongside creating an attractive public space in the heart of historic Kingston.

The area will become a vibrant part of the town centre, with new green spaces and café tables and chairs, giving families the opportunity to spend time there beyond just using the leisure complex.

Thanks to the council's effective financial management in the last four years – including an asset redeployment strategy that is set to generate around £40m – and the work to continue stringent financial resilience, the council remains fully committed to building this landmark complex despite the current difficult national financial crisis, which will have a significant impact on labour, material and building cost.

The scheme is a major part of the council's 'Transform Kingston' programme which looks to reshape and revitalise our historic town centre to make it even better for our residents, local businesses, students and visitors.

Watch our short video for a look inside the new complex.



"We are moving forward to provide Kingston's residents with a fantastic new leisure facility that everyone across the borough and visitors from afar will be able to enjoy for many years to come.

"By connecting the new complex with the neighbouring historic library and museum this development promises to provide something for everyone and be a celebration of Kingston's unique history, heritage and culture."

Noel Hadjimichael,
Portfolio Holder for Assets,
Leisure and Commissioning
at Kingston Council





Shaping the future OF KINGSTON



Creating a vision for the Kingston town centre area

We're working with Kingston First to create a vision for Kingston town centre and the surrounding area, which will guide future development and set out how we all want the town centre to develop and change over the next 10 years.



To ensure the project is community-led, we set up a Citizens' Panel, which represents the demographic make-up of the borough.



This brought together 40 people to discuss the issues and together create their vision for the future of the town centre area.

The draft vision will be published in early 2023 for comments. To find out more visit kingston.gov.uk/a-plan-for-Kingston or watch our short video.

We have also been engaging with local businesses, landowners, developers, community groups, young people and other residents to make sure there is wide local input into the vision.



First draft of New Local Plan published

We want to create a different and better place in Kingston by 2041. The Local Plan will help us to achieve this and set out the vision for how we want the borough to develop and change in the future.

It has an impact on everyone living, working, studying or visiting Kingston because it will guide and shape what can be built, and where, in the borough over the next 20 years.

It will make sure we have the right homes, jobs and schools as well as vibrant town centres, open spaces and transport. It will also address and tackle important issues such as climate change and biodiversity. We need to get it right because it will be used to assess all future planning applications.

We have now produced a first draft based on the feedback you have already given us.

We'd like to hear your views on this from 28 November 2022 until 28 February 2023. Visit kingston.gov.uk/localplan for more information.



Borough's first specialist DEMENTIA CARE HOME



Kingston Council has opened a brand new specialist dementia care home in Surbiton, in partnership with leading care provider Anavo Group.

Surbitonian Gardens at Poppy Court is the first home of its kind in the borough.

Embracing the latest care technology and research, it will provide residents living with dementia with specialist care and the best quality of life possible in an environment where they can feel truly at home, and help them to remain independent for longer.

With demand for dementia care increasing and the number of people in the borough living with the condition expected to rise from around 1,500 to more than 2,100 by 2027, the new home will also deliver value for money for the council and local residents.



The state-of-the-art home features an on-site hairdresser, a tech hub and games room, a community space, landscape gardens and a café where residents can dine with family.

The café is run by local business the Surbitonian Grind, a popular local hotspot for tasty sandwiches and coffee. The Grind's quality menu and friendly staff will be at the care home for families and visitors to experience.

The new care home forms part of the council's push to provide thousands of new homes for the diverse needs of local people, including to suit the needs of elderly or disabled people with complex needs such as dementia.

"As a local community business, this represented an exciting opportunity for us to invest in and support Surbitonian Gardens and the wider local community".

John Tiddy, Manager of Surbitonian Grind

For further details about Surbitonian Gardens and to book a tour, please get in touch with their Resident Experience Manager, Heather, on 020 8051 4410, or visit surbitoniangardens.co.uk



Keeping KINGSTON MOVING

More electric vehicle charging points to be installed

Our vision for a 'cleaner and greener' Kingston, includes providing more electric vehicle (EV) charging points. Following an initial introduction of charging points last year, Kingston is now looking to deliver a further 150 lamp column and kerbside bollard charging points.

Thank you to all of you who contributed to our survey. We received around 150 comments and suggestions for additional charging point locations.

Although our formal survey has closed, you can still submit your thoughts or suggestions at sustainable.transport@kingston.gov.uk

Once we have collated your feedback, site surveys will take place at the proposed locations and installation will commence with expected completion by the end of the year.

You can see the full list of proposed locations on our **Lets Talk** page.



KEEPING KINGSTON MOVING



Improving our cycle network

We're committed to making cycling and other forms of active travel attractive, safe, and accessible for as many people as possible. We want to complete unfinished schemes and also expand the network into other parts of the borough, but we are reliant on Transport for London (TfL) fulfilling their commitment to fund this work.

While we await the outcome of TfL's own funding review, we are taking the opportunity to look at how the Kingston Road and Ewell Road partly-completed schemes are working, and consider what small but effective improvements could be made to parts of the routes if funding can be found. We are currently reviewing your feedback and will be presenting our findings and recommendations to the Neighbourhood Committees.

Find out more on our **Lets Talk** page.



SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO THRIVE & PROSPER



High streets recovery ACROSS THE BOROUGH

Our local area has never been so important.

Alongside partners, we've worked to help the local economy recover from the pandemic, as well as diversifying the offering in our town centres and high streets so people visit them for culture, leisure and entertainment as well as shopping.

Recently, we awarded £300,000 to 18 local businesses for innovative initiatives that support growth and help develop the borough's green economy. The money has been made available through our new Recovery, Adaptation, and Innovation Support for Enterprise (RAISE) grant scheme, to support the borough's post-pandemic economic recovery and help take climate action.

The successful initiatives range from funding staff bicycles in New Malden and vegan catering in Surbiton to

environmentally friendly cocktail deliveries in Kingston Town Centre and saving honeybee trees in Chessington.

In May, Kingston's historic, Grade II listed Market House was reimagined as a creative hub.

Emphasising cooperation and experimentation, the programme provides a platform for local businesses, creatives and young artists. Over the last few months, **Not My Beautiful House** has facilitated the sharing of knowledge and skills between local students and residents, providing enterprise and employment opportunities, supporting Kingston's thriving creative economy.

If you are a business in Kingston and want to find out more about what we are doing to support businesses and high streets, sign up to our business e-newsletter: kingston.gov.uk/business-help

Emma Egerton, Owner of vegan catering and events company Little Ginger, who received funding through RAISE, said:

"This grant is going to take Little Ginger to a new level, from making deliveries in a fully electric van and funding the creation of cooking workshops and equipment, to enabling outreach and more collaboration with local people and community projects, working towards a more sustainable way of life."





Winners and charities CELEBRATE KINGSTON COMMUNITY LOTTERY

Since August 2021, Kingston Community Lottery has been raising funds for charities and good causes across the borough and has created over 300 winners.

Tickets cost £1, with 60p of every ticket going to good causes. The top weekly prize is £25,000 and each subscriber can select the charity or good cause they want to support.

Two recent winners won £250 each, choosing to support The Community Brain CIC and The Kingston Centre for Independent Living (KCIL).



"We put on local events such as the Surbiton Food Festival and Ski Sunday, as well as greening projects including the creation of a community garden at Tolworth Station.

"We are proud to be part of Kingston Community Lottery and grateful for all support - your donations really make a difference to where you live. The money raised goes towards making these events and projects happen. Thank you!"

Trudie Green,
The Community Brain

The Community Brain has supported community participation for 15 years. Find out more at thecommunitybrain.org



MAKING KINGSTON BETTER TOGETHER



"We provide practical support for disabled people as well as activities and day trips. The Community Lottery is an incredible initiative and we'd like to thank all those who have chosen to support KCIL. With your support we recently ran trips to Kew Gardens and The Isabella Plantation."

Abi Corbett,
Fundraiser for Kingston Centre for Independent Living

KCIL has been helping disabled people since 1968. Find out more at kcil.org.uk

Raise money for your good cause

The Community Lottery is not just for registered charities. Do you need money for your community project, seeds for your allotment or new kit for your sports club?

All kinds of good causes can join the lottery - visit the [website](http://www.kingstonlottery.co.uk) and get fundraising help from lottery partner Gatherwell.

You can play the Kingston Community Lottery and support local good causes at kingstonlottery.co.uk



SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO THRIVE & PROSPER



Spotlight ON THE COMMUNITY

Our borough has a wide range of diverse charities and community interest groups and we really value working with them. This time we spoke to Pippa Mackie from Citizens Advice Kingston

Who is Citizens Advice Kingston?

A local charity giving free information and advice to help people find a way forward. We cover all topics - whoever you are: whatever the problem. People talk to us about how to increase their income, reduce expenses and negotiate with creditors if they're in debt. As well as discussing their rights on housing, work, family and relationships, we help people find answers and options.

What are you most proud of?

The lessons we've learnt from the pandemic about the best ways to help as many local people as possible and to make sure those who need us are at the top of the list. We have changed how people can get in touch, so it's easy to leave a message and we will call back. The team here is fantastic, knowledgeable, kind and helpful.

What initiatives are you currently running?

As well as our 'core' work, we continue to run the KIAA network and develop new projects with the Foodbank, MS Society and Mind. We're also working with Kingston University on its social work course and with the council and other partners to support residents with the cost of living crisis.

How does the council support your work?

Kingston Council pays us to deliver services and we work with a wide range of officers from several departments. Our key work is through the Kingston Information and Advice Alliance (KIAA), where we meet monthly to talk about the latest issues and how we can enhance partnership working between the council and the voluntary and community sector to help combat poverty.

How can people find out more?

Get in touch at citizensadvicekingston.org.uk

Hello Pippa





Be kind to your **BODY AND MIND**



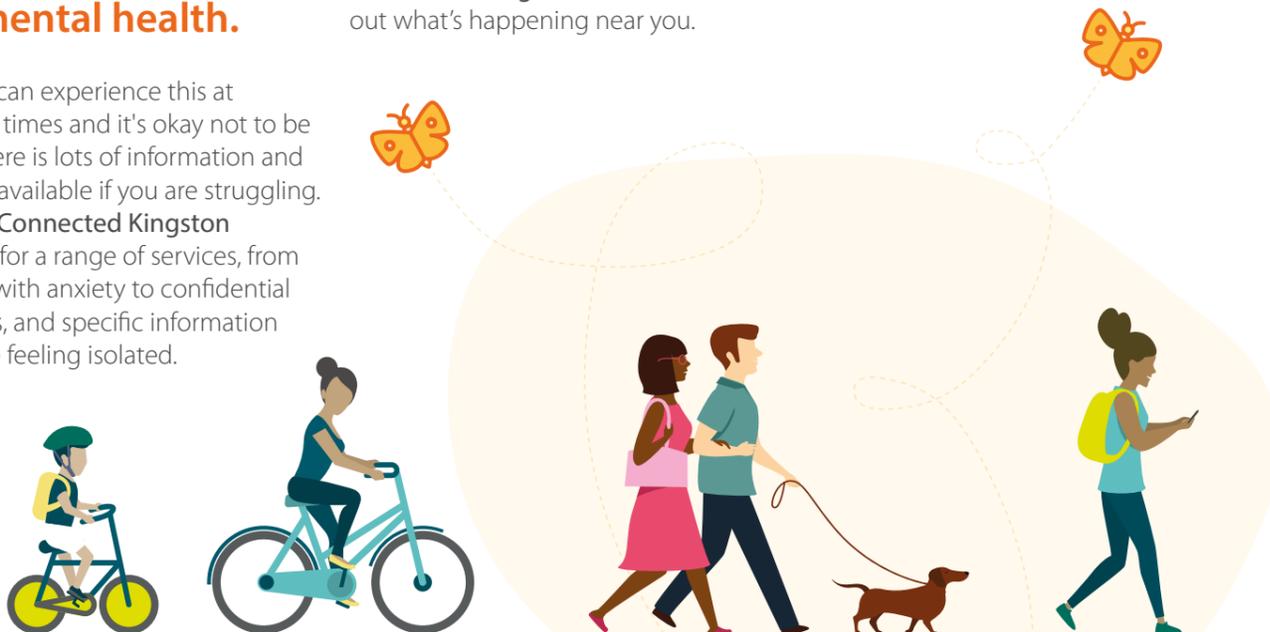
This is a **challenging** time, with increasing **costs** for everyone and we know this can increase **anxiety, stress** and **sleep problems**, which in turn can affect our **mental health**.

You can also search **Every Mind Matters** for free, NHS-approved advice and tips to help you look after your mental wellbeing.

Physical activity can also help. No matter how much you do, it is good for your body and mind. There are lots of ways to exercise and meet people across the borough. Take a look at the **Connected Kingston website** to find out what's happening near you.

Exercise can improve your sleep, help clear your mind of worries, boost your energy levels and help with back and joint pain.

Anyone can experience this at different times and it's okay not to be okay. There is lots of information and support available if you are struggling. Visit the **Connected Kingston website** for a range of services, from dealing with anxiety to confidential helplines, and specific information for those feeling isolated.



Keeping active also lowers your longer term risks of type 2 diabetes, heart disease, dementia, and several cancers.

Walking is a great way to start. Songyi, 38, regularly joins other women taking a stroll in Richmond Park, organised by Nanoom, a small charity dedicated to helping women from a Korean background.

"Walking as a part of a group has helped me to interact. I could open up to others and talk about anxiety issues. The group was supportive and I was pleased to make friends."

Songyi,
Resident



Kingston Council **STANDS WITH UKRAINE**

LONDON CRICKET TRUST LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THE YEAR AWARD!

This is for our work on cricket development within the borough and installing five non-turf pitches over the past year.

Check them out at Beverley Park, Manor Park and Fairfield, Alexandra, and King Edwards Recreation Grounds.



It has been more than six months since Russia invaded Ukraine. Since then, **Kingston** has now **welcomed** more than **250 people** from **Ukraine**, including over 60 children.

Across the borough, more than 200 households have come forward to offer to host Ukrainian families. A truly incredible response!

Kingston continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and all Ukrainian people in our borough and across the world.

Our **website** includes local and national information and support for Ukrainian guests and hosts which includes our **welcome packs** in English, Ukrainian and Russian.



Supporting you with rising living costs



Kingston Stronger Together
Supporting one another with the rising cost of living



For more information, support and advice visit: kingston.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport



KINGSTON ADULT EDUCATION



Thinking about learning
something new?



Visit: kingston.gov.uk/adults-education

Christmas IS COMING!



Christmas Market

Kingston's Christmas Market is back and stalls will be **open** until 24 December. Find out more: www.kingstonchristmasmarket.co.uk

Christmas waste collections

As Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, waste collections will **change by one or two days**. Collections will return to normal from Monday 16 January 2023. You can find up to date information at kingston.gov.uk/recycling

- [kingston_council](https://www.instagram.com/kingston_council)
- [RBKingston](https://twitter.com/RBKingston)
- [RBKingstonCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/RBKingstonCouncil)
- kingston.gov.uk

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