

One Blue Bag Challenge

Every week, households in Wokingham Borough throw away over 570 tonnes of rubbish – but over 50% of this could be recycled – much of this at home through kerbside recycling collections. Wokingham Borough Council is urging its residents to do more with its One Blue Bag Challenge. Food currently makes up almost a quarter of what goes into the average blue waste bag. An average blue bag also contains 13% paper, metal, cardboard and plastic while textiles make up 5% and glass and garden waste each make up 4%. Those materials could be recycled again and again or be used to create energy, but currently it's just being thrown away. Executive Member for Environment, Cllr Parry Batth said: "We are challenging our residents to the One Blue Bag Challenge. If we all only use one blue bag per week for each household, this would significantly reduce the amount of rubbish we send to landfill or burn for energy. If you're already doing a great job reducing your waste, try challenging yourself to one bag every other week."



Food waste

The first step to cutting down on food waste is reducing the amount of food that we buy but then don't use. Meal planning can help buy only the ingredients needed. It isn't always possible to reduce the amount we buy, so the next best thing is looking at how we can re-use some of the items that might otherwise go to waste. For example, many food products can be re-purposed into beauty products. Repair isn't often a word we associate with food, but it is perfectly possible to rejuvenate or repair dishes and ingredients that haven't gone to plan. Learn how to rescue dishes or ingredients by searching for tips online. If all else fails, it's time to recycle. Donate food that you won't eat before its shelf life to local food banks or family, friends and neighbours and always put your food waste in the food caddies for collection. Head over to LoveFoodHateWaste for tips on preventing food waste and saving money.



Plastic recycling

Plastic is one of the most popular and useful materials of modern times: we now use about 20 times more plastic than we did 50 years ago. Its popularity and widespread use is why handling it responsibly and correctly once it becomes waste is so vitally important. We can optimise the lifespan of plastics by re-using and recycling items as many times as possible.

Optimising the lifespan of plastics, for example, by recycling used plastic bottles into new ones, can reduce the need to create new plastic.

This means:

- conserving non-renewable fossil fuels (oil)
- reducing the consumption of energy used in the production of new plastic
- reducing the amount of solid waste being disposed of
- reducing the emission of gases like carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Residents can recycle a variety of rigid plastic items such as plastic buckets, crates, bins, storage boxes, garden furniture, pipes, toys or plastic plant pots at the re3 recycling centres.

Soft plastics (plastic bags and wrappers) can often be recycled at major supermarkets.



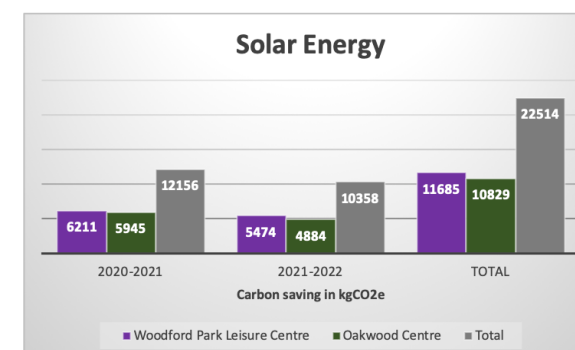
More ways to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Recycle your printer cartridges
- Donate unwanted clothes, shoes and uniforms
- Avoid using disposable goods
- Donate unwanted furniture, toys or appliances
- Avoid using plastic bags
- Use reusable food containers
- Buy products made from recycled material
- Avoid printing documents
- Use recyclable wrapping paper
- Repurpose gifts or donate
- Use reusable tea and coffee cups on-the-go
- Use reusable water bottles
- Reuse scraps of paper or fabric for crafts
- Repurpose glass jars and containers
- Harvest rainwater
- Buy secondhand

We continue to be committed to climate change and to supporting Wokingham Borough Council's plan to be a net-zero carbon borough by 2030. We are continually working on ways to achieve this. The Herald is now printed on carbon balanced and recyclable paper. Here are some of our recent projects.

Water harvesting

We have installed a large water harvesting water butt to the Oakwood Centre, which now supplies water for the Rotary garden and rose beds. This will also supply the new sensory garden and shrub bedding, which will be planted in the new play area. Following the success of this harvesting system, we are looking at extending it to Coronation Hall and at our Reading Road allotment site.



Our buildings

This year, all lighting at Woodford Park Leisure Centre, the Oakwood Centre and Chapel Hall will be upgraded to LED. The switch to LED at Coronation Hall was undertaken last year.

Since the installation of solar panels at Woodford Park Leisure Centre and the Oakwood Centre, we have saved around 22.5 tonnes of carbon emissions.



Planting

The town centre garden has now been planted out with a mix of evergreen shrubs, ornamental grasses and seasonal bulbs. Additional bulbs will be added in the autumn.

The Council has also purchased over 250 new plants for various areas which includes 30 new roses for the Rotary garden and the rose beds next to the Oakwood Centre.

The new play area at Woodford Park will include a sensory garden with lavender, various grass mixes, hebes, highly scented flowers and a herb bed.

We will also be putting in a selection of wildflowers and shrubs along the fence line of the play area. Malone Park and in the area next to the Pre-School in Woodford Park will also benefit from wildflower planting.

Trees

Last year the Woodlands Trust donated over a hundred saplings to the Town Council which we have been nurturing. The mixture includes Dogwood which are now due for planting around the lake in Woodford Park, along with new shrubs and seeding Devil Bit to bring more colour and wildlife diversity. Any established trees will be planted across all the Council owned green spaces.

In addition to the donated trees, we will be planting a purple leaved cherry plum tree for the Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate her platinum Jubilee. We will be requesting jubilee themed painted stones from local children to surround the tree as a permanent celebratory commemoration. We have also been donated a blossoming Almond tree and a Rowan tree, which will both be planted in Woodford Park.

Please check our website and social media pages for details of the Jubilee Stones Project.



Upcoming events:
Woodley's Big Jubilee Lunch - Sunday 5th June
Woodley Carnival 60 for Sixty - Saturday 11th June
See details inside...

Climate changes across Wokingham Borough

Garden forest scheme

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) recently ran a pilot Garden Forest Scheme, inviting local residents to apply for a tree, or trees, for their own garden. Over the next five years, WBC aims to plant 250,000 trees across the borough to increase carbon sequestration rates and the scheme is just one part of this. Carbon sequestration is a process whereby the trees will draw excess CO2 from the atmosphere and store it. The scheme is set to initially run for two years, after which it will be reviewed, and a decision made on whether to extend it.

Greenways

Wokingham Borough Council is developing a network of greenways, which are traffic-free multi-user routes funded by developers building housing at its major developments in Shinfield Parish, the former Arborfield Garrison and North and South Wokingham. These will support cycling, skateboarding, scooting and rollerblading, as well as horse riding on some sections. The greenways will connect the major developments and surrounding villages. The first, from Arborfield to Finchampstead, is complete, as is the initial phase of the second which will eventually stretch from Cantley Park in Wokingham town to Arborfield Cross and should finish in 2022. The network includes the Loddon Long Distance Path from Swallowfield to Twyford via Shinfield, Earley and Woodley, which links to other routes.

Cycleways

Wokingham Borough Council is building dedicated cycleways, segregated from motor traffic, including the shared route between east Woodley, Dinton Pastures, Loddon Bridge and Winnersh Triangle. The aim is to provide safe spaces in which to walk and cycle, reducing the reliance on cars. More cycleways will be developed, subject to public consultation and funding from sources including the Government's Active Travel Fund. The Council will work with Woodley Town Council and local residents on any cycleways in the Woodley area, revising its former proposal for Woodlands Avenue.

Wokingham Borough Council

Visit Wokingham Borough Council's Engage Platform for the latest consultations and to have your say:
<https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk/en-GB/>
www.wokingham.gov.uk

E-vehicle charging points

Dozens of electric vehicle charging points will be installed across Wokingham borough this year in a bid to reduce carbon emissions and tackle the climate emergency on a local level. A small-scale rollout of about 36 on-street points in residential areas have been approved, subject to public consultation once preferred sites are agreed, and several more could be provided in about 10 of the authority's car parks. They will be owned by the council and maintained by a supplier with expertise in the field who would cover any costs at no net expense to the taxpayer.

Green homes grant

Wokingham Borough Council has launched its Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme to help tackle fuel poverty and to lower local carbon emissions. The scheme provides free grants to help residents on low incomes and who are living in low energy efficient properties (EPC of E, F or G) to carry out a range of works to their home aimed at improving energy efficiency and lowering their fuel bills. Private landlords may also be able to qualify for partial grants. Residents and landlords who believe they might qualify need to apply via the Energy Trust's green homes grant scheme:
<https://surveys.est.org.uk/s/GreenHomesGrantSchemeLAD>. Or contact Warmworks, WBC's managing agent for the scheme, on 0808 196 8255.

Smart traffic

Wokingham Borough Council plans to manage traffic more smartly. This includes smart traffic lights at 150 junctions, which can change signal timings based on how busy it gets, either on an automatic programme or with the intervention of its highways team. Dozens of push-button pedestrian crossings are being replaced with newer ones triggered by sensors to avoid stopping traffic any longer than necessary. The Council is also working to set up variable electronic signs in the places where need is greatest, and these can be programmed to display messages like warnings about upcoming delays, explaining what's causing disruption, suggesting alternative routes and indicating average journey times.

What's On

Woodley Town Centre

WOODLEY TOWN CENTRE EVENTS 2022		
MONTH	DATES	EVENT
January	Saturday 5, 15, 22, 29	Saturday Market 09.00-15.00
	Sunday 9, 23, 30	Car Boot Sale 08.00-13.00
	Wednesday 5, 12, 19, 26	Artisan Market 09.00-14.00
February	Saturday 5, 12, 19, 26	Saturday Market 09.00-15.00
	Sunday 6, 13, 20, 27	Car Boot Sale 08.00-13.00
	Wednesday 2, 9, 16, 23	Artisan Market 09.00-14.00
March	Saturday 5, 12, 19, 26	Saturday Market 09.00-15.00
	Sunday 6, 13, 20, 27	Car Boot Sale 08.00-13.00
	Wednesday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Artisan Market 09.00-14.00
April	Saturday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Saturday Market 09.00-15.00
	Sunday 3, 10, 24	Car Boot Sale 08.00-13.00
	Wednesday 6, 13, 20, 27	Artisan Market 09.00-14.00
May	Saturday 7, 14, 21, 28	Saturday Market 09.00-15.00
	Sunday 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Car Boot Sale 08.00-13.00
	Wednesday 4, 11, 18, 25	Artisan Market 09.00-14.00
June	Saturday 4, 11, 18, 25	Saturday Market 09.00-15.00
	Sunday 12, 19, 26	Car Boot Sale 08.00-13.00
	Wednesday 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Artisan Market 09.00-14.00
July	Saturday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Saturday Market 09.00-15.00
	Sunday 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Car Boot Sale 08.00-13.00
	Wednesday 6, 13, 20, 27	Artisan Market 09.00-14.00
August	Saturday 6, 13, 20, 27	Saturday Market 09.00-15.00
	Sunday 7, 14, 21, 28	Car Boot Sale 08.00-13.00
	Wednesday 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Artisan Market 09.00-14.00
September	Saturday 3, 10, 17, 24	Saturday Market 09.00-15.00
	Sunday 4, 11, 18, 25	Car Boot Sale 08.00-13.00
	Wednesday 7, 14, 21, 28	Artisan Market 09.00-14.00
October	Saturday 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Saturday Market 09.00-15.00
	Sunday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Car Boot Sale 08.00-13.00
	Wednesday 5, 12, 19, 26	Artisan Market 09.00-14.00
November	Saturday 5, 12, 19, 26	Saturday Market 09.00-15.00
	Sunday 6, 13, 20, 27	Car Boot Sale 08.00-13.00
	Wednesday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Artisan Market 09.00-14.00
December	Saturday 3, 10, 17, 24	Saturday Market 09.00-15.00
	Sunday 4, 11, 18, 25	Car Boot Sale 08.00-13.00
	Wednesday 7, 14, 21	Artisan Market 09.00-14.00

Town Centre Manager, Brian Fennelly
tcm@woodley.gov.uk / www.woodleytowncentre.co.uk

WOODLEY'S BIG JUBILEE LUNCH

FREE EVENT!

ACTIVITIES! ENTERTAINERS! PET ZOO!

FREE ICE CREAM!

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE 12.00-16.00

SAVE THE DATE!

LIVE MUSIC!

WOODLEY TOWN CENTRE

Woodley Town Council
www.woodleytowncentre.co.uk

Woodley Town Council
www.woodley.gov.uk

The Town Elector's Meeting has been rescheduled to 26th May. This is your opportunity to have a say about your community. More details to follow on our website and social media pages.



Carnival afternoon is all about the community of Woodley. Local groups provide a range of acts, shows and activities to suit all tastes, as well as a car, flower, dog and photographic show taking place on carnival day. The family-friendly evening concert is a popular part of the annual carnival with a great line up of bands. The music starts at 6.30pm and the evening ends with a firework finale. You can also enjoy the funfair, bar and food concessions. The Woodley Carnival just wouldn't be the same without the Procession. Whether you take part or watch from the roadside, the procession is always fun. Starting at 11am, the procession will arrive at the Carnival at 1:30pm. Don't miss it! www.woodleycarnival.org.uk

Woodley Town Council Committee Meetings

Planning & Community Meeting: 29 March, 26 April, 17 May, 14 June
Leisure Services Meeting: 12 April, 31 May
Strategy & Resources Meeting: 19 April, 7 June
Full Council: 10 May, 21 June
Town Electors: 26 May
For more information please email: matthew.filmore@woodley.gov.uk

Get social with us and stay up-to-date ...

Woodley Town Council

[f @WoodleyCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WoodleyCouncil)
www.woodley.gov.uk

Oakwood Centre

[f @OakwoodCentreUK](https://www.facebook.com/OakwoodCentreUK)
www.theoakwoodcentre.com

Woodford Park Leisure Centre

[f @WoodfordParkLC](https://www.facebook.com/WoodfordParkLeisureCentre)
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