

Your Chesterfield

Putting our communities first

Spring 2015 Issue No.6



Decent homes
standard met

See pages 8-9



CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Welcome

Much of my time, and that of senior council officers, is spent trying to improve the future of Chesterfield's economy.



This often involves protracted negotiations with potential investors or existing businesses looking to expand. But it is worth it for the huge investment and job opportunities created when it goes well.

Two great examples are the Peak Resorts and Waterside developments.

Work starts soon on the £400 million Peak Resorts all-weather leisure, health, sport and education project, near Unstone.

This joint venture between Birchall Properties and US firm Grand Heritage Hotel Group has taken around 20 years to turn from a dream into reality.

During that time many people in the council have been working to help the developer, Rupert Carr, put in place the measures that have now enabled him to attract the necessary investment. Through his perseverance it is now happening bringing 1,300 jobs.

Another great example is the £340 million Waterside regeneration scheme. The first phase of affordable housing is complete and the partners, including the council, are looking to start work in the autumn on infrastructure works around the canal basin.

This will then enable the first phase of commercial development and second phase of housing to begin in 2016.

When big investors like these have the confidence to invest in Chesterfield, others will follow.

Of course, not every regeneration scheme will go to plan and you hit unexpected problems on the way.

But by working hard we hope to deliver many more schemes and the jobs that come with them.

Councillor John Burrows
Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council

Are we accessible to you?

If not ask us how we can help.

We want everyone to be able to read and understand our publications.

We aim to provide what you need to be able to understand our information or talk or write to us.

On request we will provide free of charge:

- Language interpreters, including for sign language.
- Translation of written material into other languages.
- Material in braille, large print and recorded onto CD.

Please contact us:

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07960 910264

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info@chesterfield.gov.uk

کیا ہم تک آپ کی رسائی ہے؟ اگر نہیں تو ہمیں بتائیے!

你可覺得易於與我們接觸？若不同的話，請提出要求。

Czy łatwo jest skontaktować się z nami? Jeżeli nie, powiedz nam o tym!

Get in touch

We are always keen to hear your comments about Your Chesterfield.

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Chesterfield Theatres: one of the services partly funded by Council Tax



Council Tax frozen for second year running

We have taken the decision to freeze Council Tax for Chesterfield Borough Council services for the second year in a row to help hard-working families in the borough.

This comes despite the news that, again, we are one of 19 authorities in the country facing the biggest cut in the grant funding we receive from the Government – a 6.4 per cent reduction in the coming financial year.

This comes as a number of councils in the south of England have received an increase of up to 3.2 per cent in the money they receive from the Government.

In 2010/11 we received an £8.7 million grant from the Government, which has reduced this year to £5.3 million.

Because of this, we have had to make difficult decisions on how we deliver the services we supply to residents and businesses.

Where your Council Tax goes:

Although Chesterfield Borough Council collects Council Tax from residents, we keep only 10 per cent to pay for services we provide, including: bin collections, street cleaning, sports and park facilities, regeneration, theatres and tourism.

For the average band A property, this means we keep only £1.86 each week or £96.56 each year.

- Derbyshire County Council receives 74 per cent for services including education, social services and roads
- Derbyshire Constabulary receives 11 per cent
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue receives five per cent.

Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Constabulary have both decided their portions of Council Tax will increase by just under two per cent.

We have no control over the portion of Council Tax set by other authorities so, although the amount you pay to Chesterfield Borough Council will remain the same, the overall amount you pay in Council Tax will increase.



Maximising the local benefits

The new Queen's Park Sports Centre is rising rapidly from the ground.

As Your Chesterfield went to press, building work on the project was on track despite the snow and ice over the winter.

When we gave the go ahead for the sports centre to be built we included a clause in the contract to ensure the local area benefits as much as commercially possible from the work.

Some of the work requires specialist skills that may only be available from a handful of companies in the country, who bring their own workforces with them.

But currently 36 per cent of the people who are employed on the construction site are local and 32 per cent of the work has gone to local contractors, with the likelihood of more to come as the work gets to the fitting out stage.

One of those suppliers is Chesterfield based MB Glass, who will provide the glass and surrounding aluminium walls, known as curtain walls, for the sports centre building.

Richard Evans, commercial manager, said: "We have worked with Morgan Sindall before so they know the quality of our work.

"But you still have to be able to deliver a competitive tender and be able to demonstrate that you can meet the criteria in all the categories that they and the council require for the project.

"Although we tender for jobs up and down the country it is commercially beneficial to work in your local area.

"We are proud to be based in Chesterfield and of what the company has achieved since it was set up so it is good that the council is supporting local companies in this way."

The glass and curtain walls for the Queen's Park Sports Centre will be designed, manufactured and installed by MB Glass from its base on the Turnoaks Business Park in Hasland.

The company, which employs 40 staff, has worked on other key sites in the town, including the Stratstone BMW garage off the A61 and the Ashgate Medical Centre on Saltergate.

Richard said: "We invest in staff training for NVQs and City and Guilds qualifications. That training is provided by Chesterfield firms and Chesterfield College so by getting jobs like this it also helps other local companies."

Factfile

The £11.25 million Queen's Park Sports Centre is being built on the Queen's Park Annexe site, off Boythorpe Road.

The site is due to open in early 2016. The existing sports centre will remain open until the new one is complete.

Facilities will include:

- An eight lane main swimming pool with spectator seating
- A learner pool with moveable floor and children's fun water features
- An eight court sports hall with spectator seating
- 80 station gym
- Two glass back squash courts with moveable wall
- Three training rooms
- Freedom climbing
- Village changing facilities with individual and family cubicles for swimmers
- Changing facilities for other sports or activities
- Activity studio space
- Café and social space
- Midwifery centre
- Free car parking for approximately 150 cars.

The centre is being paid for by £6.725 million from Chesterfield Borough Council, £2.5 million from Chesterfield College as part of a dual use agreement, £2 million from Sport England's Strategic Facilities Fund and £25,000 from Squash England.

The building work contract is being managed by construction and infrastructure company Morgan Sindall, who also built the Arc Leisure Centre at Matlock.

Parkside on schedule

Work is progressing well in building the new Parkside older persons' accommodation.

Work began last September on the £3 million complex of 22 two-bedroom flats on Stand Road, Whittington Moor.

Work has been carried out by A&S Enterprises Ltd. They erected the steel structure of the building before using cranes to install the pre-cast concrete floor planks on the first floor and working on the walls and the roof.

The new building replaces the previous sheltered housing complex built in the 1970s which was demolished early last year.

Residents will notice a real difference with the improved facilities which will be on offer.

Each of the new flats will have a kitchen and lounge area, wet room bathroom, generous storage space and a hall. There will also be a common room, communal kitchen and assisted bathrooms as well as a garden area.

Work is due to be completed this summer.

Anyone interested in a flat in the new Parkside should contact On the Move, call (01246) 345951 or 345827 or visit www.onthemove-cbc.org.uk

£3 million complex of 22 two-bedroom flats in Stand Road, Whittington Moor.



Northern Gateway update

Plans for the redevelopment of Chesterfield's Northern Gateway are being reassessed.

Nationally the retail market has changed significantly, with a growth in online retailing. Therefore, the role of the Northern Gateway is being reassessed to ensure that any redevelopment continues to attract visitors to Chesterfield.

A leisure led offer is being explored, with restaurants, a cinema and a hotel. There could also be a lot more new homes built on the site.

Discussions are ongoing with developers and adjoining landowners, including the former Co-op store, to understand the level of interest for a different scheme. We will be looking for a partner to develop the scheme.

Welcoming Peak Resorts

We are welcoming news of a £400 million development bringing more than 1,300 jobs to the borough.

The Peak Resorts complex in Unstone will bring together hospitality, university, sport and medical expertise and will have 600 holiday apartments, hotel and hostel units with 250 woodland lodges.

A new company will bring together investors Birchall Properties, led by Rupert Carr, and the US owned Grand Heritage Hotel Group.

Work is due to begin this spring.

The council has worked with the company over many years to help make the project a reality.

Flexible worker Matt Blake



Working flexibly

There have been lots of stories in the media about variable hours contracts in recent months.

These have focused on some horror stories of certain employers giving staff no real employment rights or working conditions.

But at the other end of the spectrum, the council has been successfully employing a small fraction of its staff on these contracts for many years, offering fair terms.

We recently developed a policy working together with the unions UNISON, GMB and UNITE which confirms that staff employed on variable hours contracts have the same rights as other workers.

These include:

- Holiday entitlement
- Sick pay based on the number of hours worked in the previous 12 weeks
- Access to training courses.

One place where we use some variable hours contracts is in our leisure centres. They are particularly useful for lifeguards and fitness instructors who fit in these shifts around studying or other full or part-time jobs.

They are also used in our theatres to provide additional support needed for short periods during popular shows such as the pantomime.

Matt Blake is 23 and has worked as a lifeguard at the Healthy Living Centre in Staveley for the last three years on a variable hours contract while studying for a degree in Coaching and Sports Science at Nottingham Trent University.

Matt says: "It's been good because it's been flexible while I've been at university.

"I haven't had to work set hours and that's allowed me to pick and choose when I've worked. It's worked for the centre because they've been able to cover shifts and it's worked for me because I've been able to fit in work around my studies and my other hobbies."

We regularly review the number of staff we employ on variable hours contracts to see if the available posts can be filled by someone on a permanent contract.

Since graduating, Matt has moved to a contract which guarantees him 18 hours work each week at the centre but still allows him to choose which hours he works, allowing him to fit in his shifts around his other work as a personal trainer.

Improving homes for residents

One of the council's key priorities in the past year has been to make sure that all council homes meet the 'Decent Homes standard'.

This was introduced by the Government back in 2000 to make sure that all social housing tenants - council and housing association - live in homes which are warm, protected from the weather and have modern facilities.

This month will see all the council's 9,500 homes meet this standard.

We caught up with two council tenants who have recently had these improvements made to their home.

Bert and Margaret Hardwick first moved to Newland Dale when they were married 48 years ago. Today they rent a council flat on the estate.

The flat boasts new fixtures and fittings as part of the council's Decent Homes programme.

They have had new kitchen units installed as well as a new energy-efficient boiler and radiators in each room, a new shower and new washbasin in the bathroom.

Margaret said: "It was good because we were able to choose which kitchen cupboards we wanted.

"I was given a choice between these ones or wood grain ones - I chose these because I wanted something bright. It's fantastic - I'm really pleased with it all."

Bert is particularly pleased with the new heating. He said: "It heats up much quicker, it's lovely and warm.

"The old radiators had been in for 16 years and, although they still worked, they did make a rattling noise. The new ones are much better."

Work on the Decent Homes programme has been carried out by the council's in-house works team or one of our approved contractors.



Margaret and Bert Hardwick with one of their new radiators

We have teams of people who are skilled in different trades including plumbers, electricians, plasterers and decorators. But we also employ additional specialist contractors to help deliver the large number of planned improvements to our housing stock.

Margaret was impressed with the speed in which the work was carried out. She said: "It only took them four days to put the new kitchen in. They came on the Monday and ripped all the old units out and put everything in the back room - the fridge and the washing machine.

"It was amazing how they got on with everything - they even put in some of the new units on the same day."

Although we have now met the Decent Homes standard, we will continue to invest in order to make sure our council homes are kept to a good standard both internally and externally.

An independent report commissioned by the council last year recommends we invest around £640 million in improving homes over the next 30 years. We are starting this process by carrying out £69 million of improvements between 2015 and 2017.

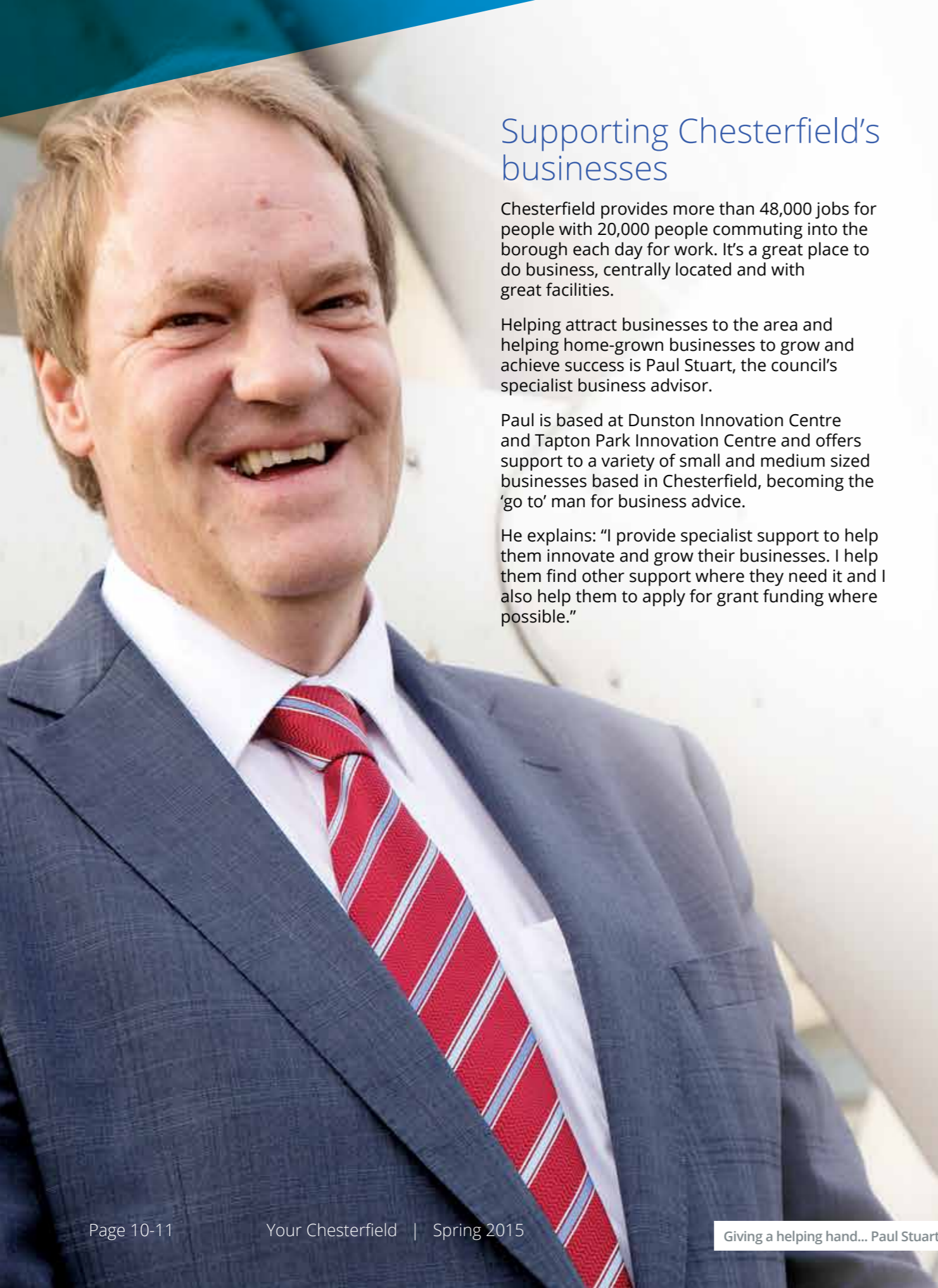
Under the Decent Homes programme, kitchens should be replaced every 20 years and have space for a washing machine, fridge/freezer and cooker. Bathrooms should be replaced every 30 years.

Homes should also have modern electrics and have energy efficient central heating. All homes that are suitable will also be fitted with cavity wall insulation. Where this is not possible we have now started to install external wall insulation.

We have received lots of positive comments from people who have had this work carried out. Margaret says: "We couldn't have wished for better.

"Everyone has been very friendly and helpful. They explained everything well and we could ask questions."

Bert agrees: "They all worked their socks off. Nothing was too much trouble for them."



Supporting Chesterfield's businesses

Chesterfield provides more than 48,000 jobs for people with 20,000 people commuting into the borough each day for work. It's a great place to do business, centrally located and with great facilities.

Helping attract businesses to the area and helping home-grown businesses to grow and achieve success is Paul Stuart, the council's specialist business advisor.

Paul is based at Dunston Innovation Centre and Tapton Park Innovation Centre and offers support to a variety of small and medium sized businesses based in Chesterfield, becoming the 'go to' man for business advice.

He explains: "I provide specialist support to help them innovate and grow their businesses. I help them find other support where they need it and I also help them to apply for grant funding where possible."

He has already helped more than 200 businesses and is currently working with approximately 150 businesses.

Paul has great satisfaction in his work: "It's rewarding to see businesses grow and be successful and take on new staff."

His reputation speaks for itself. Since he joined the council in September 2012, 10 businesses have successfully secured £2.5 million in funding from the Government's Regional Growth Fund, which supports projects to create economic growth and lasting employment.

This has led to an investment of £8.3 million into the borough, creating almost 200 jobs and safeguarding a further 46.

Paul would encourage any small and medium sized businesses who need support to get in touch: "People think there is no support but if they speak to me, I can help them with my knowledge and contacts."

Paul also has a team of specialist advisors who can be called upon to give extra support where required, such as when applying for funding.

One of the many businesses Paul has helped is the plastic moulding company, W. E. Amies and Co. The company manufactures many different types of plastic components, including those used in the plumbing, food and engineering sectors. In 2011, it set up Amies Innovations, which specialises in making components for the medical sector.

Bob Ball, managing director, explains: "We have been working with Paul for around three years.

"Paul was able to put us in touch with the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership and to support us in accessing funding of £200,000, effectively a 20 per cent contribution towards the cost of building the factory.

"More recently, he was able to help us gain funding from the Global Derbyshire Small Business Support Programme, we received £42,000 towards three new injection moulding machines.

"This has helped us increase our capacity and allowed us to take on three new staff.

"Paul's support has been fundamental in this and I can't praise him highly enough."

Paul says anyone who wants to grow their business should get in touch. He said: "Pick up the phone, have a chat and I'll be able to signpost you in the right direction for help."

Chesterfield's Innovation Centres

We have two innovation centres in Chesterfield: Dunston Innovation Centre and Tapton Park Innovation Centre.

Both offer modern, high-specification, workspaces with in-house support services to attract businesses to Chesterfield.

The contracts have easy in/easy out terms to offer flexibility. Offices continually become available as businesses move to new, bigger premises.

For more information, please contact:

Dunston Innovation Centre:

01246 267700

Tapton Park Innovation Centre:

01246 231234

Email:
innovation@chesterfield.gov.uk

Don't suffer in silence

Anti-social behaviour makes people's lives a misery – from litter to vandalism and public drunkenness to noisy or abusive neighbours.

The new Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act has given the agencies responsible for dealing with it – the police, councils and social landlords – extra powers to help victims find solutions to the problems they face.

These include the:

- Community trigger – if within a six month period someone makes three official complaints - or five separate individuals make related complaints about the same issue - they can ask for a case review. This will involve all relevant agencies and come up with solutions to the problem.
- Community remedy – this gives victims a say in the out-of-court punishment of people who commit low level crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Abolition of 19 orders, including the Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO), and their replacement with six simpler powers to prevent repeat offending.

We have amended our policies to reflect the new rules and also our tenants' handbook for those people who are council house tenants.

A victim's story

When a new resident moved into a nearby property last year, little did Steve and his neighbours know how life was to change for the worse.

Almost overnight the perpetrator subjected Steve and three other neighbours, some of who are in poor health, to an ordeal that included:

- all night parties with loud music and swearing
- threatening letters
- verbal abuse and threats of physical attacks
- people taking drugs
- fires being lit in a communal yard area
- broken glass and other rubbish strewn around their houses
- balls being repeatedly kicked against their windows

Steve turned to our housing estates and neighbourhoods team and the police for help.

They asked all the residents to keep detailed diaries outlining all the incidents they faced and to report each one to the police and council.

They then took statements and interviewed all the victims separately to gather the evidence needed to take the troublemaker to court.

The judge ordered that the perpetrator be evicted and also banned from contact with any of the victims for 12 months, with the power to arrest them if they did.

Steve said: "We went to hell and back in the five months that person was here and but for the estates and neighbourhoods officer, the rest of the council team and the police I don't know how we would have got through it.

"The officer was very sympathetic but also very professional. She was our rock. She knew exactly what needed to be done to get rid of the problems this person was creating."

Steve says life is now back to normal but he urges anyone in a similar situation to report it rather than suffer in silence.

He said: "The biggest thing I would advise is not to retaliate. There was one occasion where they were throwing things at my window.

"I started to go and chase them off but I stopped myself because if I had touched them or verbally abused them then I would have been in the wrong and when it came to court the evidence might not have been strong enough to win the case.

"Just report it to the police and the council and make detailed and accurate notes of what happens. If you do that the authorities will do their part and take action to resolve the problem but they can't act without your evidence."

More information:

www.chesterfield.gov.uk/asb

Names in the article have been changed to protect the victims.



New gym at Poolsbrook Country Park

Residents in Poolsbrook can now get fit during their visits to the park.

The new outdoor gym cost £21,000 and was bought by the Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park.

It is suitable for people of all abilities and some of the equipment is also accessible for wheelchair users.

The country park is managed and owned by the council.

Joe Roberts, chair of the Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park, said: "We are very pleased with the new gym equipment in the park.

"We hope it will be well-used by the local community."

Four year plan agreed

A plan setting out the council's priorities and aims over the next four years has been approved.

Previously the council plan was produced annually but we have now agreed a four-year version, along with an accompanying finance plan that shows how the work we intend to do will be paid for.

The plan sets out the challenges and opportunities we face.

In particular, the council will need to generate more income to reinvest into providing the services the public want and need.

To do this we will need to change the way we deliver some services, particularly through the greater use of IT systems.

This will be necessary because the amount the council receives from Government grants will decrease sharply in the next few years, on top of the cuts already made.

Details of the new plan can be seen at www.chesterfield.gov.uk/councilplan

Paper summary copies will be available in the council's customer service centre in New Square later this year.



Active Chesterfield

The first annual Active Chesterfield Awards have been held to celebrate the successes of local athletes and people involved in sport in Chesterfield.

Active Chesterfield aims to engage and inspire people to adopt and maintain an active lifestyle, to promote good health and reduce health inequalities in the community.

It is made up of a partnership of sports and health organisations that are working together to organise sports and physical activities for all sections of the community.

The group also aims to promote and raise the profile of the benefits of sport and physical activity, while becoming the first point of contact for all sport and physical activity in Chesterfield.

The Active Chesterfield partnership includes Chesterfield Borough Council, the School Sports Partnership, Chesterfield Swimming Club, Chesterfield College, Sporting Futures, Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust, Derbyshire County Sports Partnership, Derbyshire Public Health, Community Sports Trust, Chesterfield Sports Club Forum and the Chesterfield Cycle Campaign.

The partnership's first awards ceremony recognised talented athletes but also sports coaches and volunteers who work hard to encourage people of all ages to become more active.

Leave the car at home

Chesterfield residents are being urged to leave the car at home to help improve their health and the town's air quality.

Walking or cycling the journey to school or work can have real health benefits – even if it's only one day each week.

Increased air pollution has been linked to levels of asthma. The problem is worse at peak times because vehicles emit more harmful emissions when they stop and start in traffic.

Walking or cycling to work or school helps reduce the levels of air pollution and increases activity and fitness levels, which is important as nationally a third of children are now classed as obese.

Funding boost for young athletes

Young athletes in Chesterfield have received £2,250 in funding from the Derbyshire business network, ICON.

Fifteen talented youngsters have each received grants of up to £250 to help them with the cost of training. Each will either represent their chosen sport at national level or be part of a national development squad.

The council has also given them free use of our leisure centres to help them with their training.

Thanks to snow wardens

The efforts of our volunteer snow wardens helped keep the borough moving during the heavy snowfall and icy conditions this winter.

They cleared footpaths of heavy snow and assisted in gathering information about local conditions and reported empty grit bins.

We received many positive comments from residents who had been helped by the wardens.

To register an interest in becoming a snow warden call Sam Sherlock, senior emergency planning officer, on 01246 345407 or email sam.sherlock@chesterfield.gov.uk



Volunteers trim the hedges

Working through the winter

As you gaze on the daffodils and crocuses in full bloom, spare a thought for our staff and volunteers who have been working throughout the winter months to prepare our parks for the spring.

Geoff Cartwright is one of the area park rangers employed by the council.

He is usually based at Holmebrook Valley Park but he and his colleague, Zoe Verryt, do move around to visit different areas. Each week they work with volunteers who help carry out woodland management, including hedge laying.

Geoff explains: "The winter is a busy time because of the work we have to do to get ready for the spring.

"We carry out hedge laying; this is heavy pruning to the hedges in the park because they grow thicker at the bottom and thinner at the top."

This is not good for the creatures which visit the park, as Geoff explains: "Originally the hedges were put there as fencing and walls, to keep the cattle in but now they are there for conservation reasons.

"The problem is if they are too thick at the bottom, then that means that the birds we find in the park such as blackbirds, sparrows and robins, aren't able to lay their nests, they need to have cover."

These birds will be able to return to these areas this summer now the work has been carried out.

Over the winter, work has been carried out to the trees at Holmebrook Valley Park.

Geoff explains: "We have been busy planting seven new trees, including Norwegian Pine and Silver Birch trees.

"We've planted them in a wide area near the car park. Before, it was very bare – there were no trees there before – and it looks much better than having a bare car park".

As well as planting new trees, they have also been tree felling. This has been necessary, as Geoff explains: "The trees were growing higher and higher and not allowing any light through.

"We had to take them down to allow the light to get in – this is because flowers such as bluebells need the light and it's not possible for them to grow without it."

Children from Westfield Infants School helped the rangers to plant four sugar maple trees at Somersall Park, off Chatsworth Road to celebrate National Tree Week in November.

Over the winter, we also welcomed children from across the borough to help us plant more than 4,000 daffodil bulbs in the borough, including at Somersall Park and Eastwood Park in Hasland.



Chesterfield in Bloom

We will, again, be inviting green-fingered residents to enter our annual Chesterfield in Bloom competition this summer. Details of the competition will be available on our website www.chesterfield.gov.uk and in local media from late April.

Whether it's a fully-landscaped garden or a well-designed hanging basket, there is a category for everyone to enter.

Chesterfield in Bloom is a council-led project to improve the borough's environment and forms the borough's entry into the regional East Midlands in Bloom competition. Judges from the East Midlands in Bloom committee will visit us to see the flowers, gardens, litter-free streets and examples of community participation.

For more information, contact John Ramsey on 01246 345097.

Green Flag award

We will also be entering our parks for the prestigious Green Flag award again this year. Currently, four parks and open spaces have a Green Flag: Queen's Park, Holmebrook Valley Park, Poolsbrook Country Park and Chesterfield and District Crematorium.

Registering to vote... Sam Ogilby



Have your say in upcoming elections

With the general election and local elections taking place on Thursday 7 May, it's important to make sure you are registered to vote.

We caught up with Sam Ogilby, from Chesterfield, who is 18 and will be voting for the first time this year.

He registered online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote earlier this year and says the process is simple.

He said: "It didn't take much time at all. It was very easy. I went to the website and followed the relevant instructions.

"Having done that, it gives me the opportunity to vote. It gives me a say as to which political party I would like to see run the country and what type of society I would like to live in."

The council has been running sessions in local schools to encourage all 16 to 18-year-olds to register to vote.

Although you can't vote until you are 18, you can register from 16, and we are keen to make sure eligible young people in the borough do so.

Sam is head boy at Brookfield Community School on Chatsworth Road and is encouraging other young people to follow his lead.

He said: "It is important that my age group takes on the responsibility of voting, so we have our say on key issues, such as the economy, the environment, immigration and, especially for my age group, tuition fees for university."

He is keen to be able to vote for the first time on 7 May and is thinking carefully about which candidate to pick as election day gets closer.

He says: "I feel it's a bit of a responsibility and I'm looking forward to the opportunity of having my say on how the country is run for the next five years."

This May, as well as voting for the MP you want to represent you in parliament, you will also be voting for your local councillors who will represent you on Chesterfield Borough Council, with all 48 seats up for election in 19 wards.

Residents in Brimington will also vote for representatives to Brimington Parish Council and residents in Staveley will vote for who will represent them on Staveley Town Council.

Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm on Thursday 7 May. You will receive your polling card through the post which will tell you where you need to go to vote.

A few of the polling stations have changed since the last election, so please make sure you check the details carefully. More information is available on our website: www.chesterfield.gov.uk/elections.

Make sure you're registered

Most residents will already be registered to vote. If you have changed your address or your personal details, you may need to re-register. The final date to register before the election on 7 May is Monday 20 April.

Registering to vote is quick and simple.

Just visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and complete the online form. You will need details including your date of birth, address and National Insurance number.

The last day to apply for a postal vote is Tuesday 21 April.

To apply for a postal vote, check if you are on the electoral register or if you have any other questions, you can contact our elections team by email: elections@chesterfield.gov.uk or call (01246) 345402.

Plans to improve Chesterfield Market

We will soon be considering options to improve Chesterfield's historic outdoor market.

Councillors have approved plans for experts to carry out a study to look at a range of different options to ensure the market, which is run by the council, continues to improve and move with the times.

The study will look at how we can change the layout of the current market to increase the number of stalls which are in a prominent position and look outwards so they can be easily seen by shoppers.

We will also look into increasing the power supply to allow for more refrigerators and tills and to create more space between stalls for buggies and wheelchairs.

Summer opening at Revolution House

Revolution House opens for the summer season this year on Saturday 4 April.

The historic house, which played an important part in the Revolution of 1688, will open each Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from 11am to 4pm until Sunday 27 September.

Visitors will be able to see an exhibition on the Victorians, which will explore life during the period.

Admission is free. For more information, visit www.chesterfieldmuseum.co.uk



Best foot forward

Keen walkers can book to take part in a series of walks as part of the Chesterfield Area Walking Festival.

There's plenty to choose from, whether it's taking a stroll around the pretty village of Scarcliffe, looking at archaeology on the Hardwick estate or following in the footsteps of murderers and their victims around Chesterfield town.

Participants can choose from family walks of two or three miles, leisurely strolls of five or six miles, through to longer hikes of up to 34 miles such as the Chatsworth Round Walk.

Most walks are free so there's no excuse not to join in.

All are led by a fully trained guide who knows the history, wildlife and the best countryside to walk through, as well as the best places to stop for refreshment, in the beautiful Chesterfield landscape.

Places can be booked at www.chesterfieldwalkingfestival.co.uk, at our Visitor Information Centre in Rykneld Square or by calling (01246) 345777 or 345778.



Go, go, go Joseph

After a sell-out run in 2012, the ever-popular West End Show, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat returns to the Winding Wheel this spring.

Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's family musical retells the biblical story of Joseph, his 11 brothers and his coat of many colours.

Stepping into the role of Joseph - made famous by actors including Jason Donovan, Phillip Schofield and Donny Osmond - is Lloyd Daniels.

Lloyd was the X Factor's youngest contestant in the 2009 series and reached the final five out of 250,000 contestants to perform in front of 10 million TV viewers.

Matt Lapinskas, best known for playing Anthony Moon in EastEnders and being a runner-up in the penultimate series of Dancing on Ice, will play Pharaoh.

The show is set to be popular with young and old alike with a score crammed with hits including Jacob and Sons, Close Every Door and Any Dream Will Do.

Chesterfield Borough Council, who own this venue, carried out work at the Winding Wheel last summer which included increasing the power supply and extending the stage to allow more large-scale touring productions such as this to be on show.

Joseph runs at the Winding Wheel from Tuesday 14 to Sunday 19 April. For details of performance times, or to buy tickets, visit www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk or call (01246) 345222.

Congratulations to Kathryn Longford, from Staveley, who won a family ticket to see Cinderella at the Pomegranate Theatre in the competition in the last edition of Your Chesterfield.

Win Joseph tickets

We're giving away a family ticket for two adults and two children to see Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat on Tuesday 14 April at 7.30pm.

To enter, please answer the following question:

How many brothers does Joseph have?

To enter, email your answer to chesterfield.theatres@chesterfield.gov.uk.

Alternatively, post this coupon to:

Joseph Competition,
Visitor Information Centre,
Rykneld Square, Chesterfield
S40 1SB

Answer:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone number:

Entries must be received by noon on 1 April.

I wish to receive the theatre e-newsletter about upcoming productions.

What's on

Chesterfield Market

General market each Monday, Friday and Saturday. Flea market each Thursday.

Thursdays 12 March, 9 April, 14 May Farmers' Market

Produce including organic vegetables, rare breed meat, fish, Derbyshire honey, homemade cakes and cheese.

Monday 6 April, 9am to 4pm Easter Market and Table Top Sale

with entertainment 11am to 3pm.

Chesterfield Museum

Open each Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Admission free.
Telephone: 01246 345727
www.chesterfieldmuseum.co.uk

21 March to 2 May Meet the Tudors

An interactive exhibition for children exploring Tudor life.

Revolution House

From Saturday 4 April the historic house is open each Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from 11am to 4pm. Admission free.
Telephone: 01246 345727
www.chesterfieldmuseum.co.uk

4 April to 27 September 2015

The Victorians
An exhibition exploring Victorian life.

Winding Wheel

Winding Wheel
www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk
Box office: 01246 345222

Friday 13 March, 7.30pm

Roy Orbison and Friends

Barry Steele brings the character of Roy Orbison back to centre stage with special star guests.

Sunday 15 March, 6.30pm

A Night of Stars

Four top acts to suit all the family. Profits go to local charities.

Thursday 19 March, 7.30pm

Houghton Weavers

Special 40th anniversary tour. Popular folk songs and humorous jokes.

Friday 20 March, 8pm

Richard Herring: Lord of the Dance Settee

Comedy with the 'King of Edinburgh'.

Saturday 21 March, 7.30pm

Essence of Ireland

Music and dance show featuring classics such as Galway Girl, Emigrant Eyes, Tell me Ma and Irish Rover.

Wednesday 25 March, 7.30pm

Eddi Reader and Band

Fairground Attraction brought Eddi Reader into the limelight when the single Perfect and album First of a Million Kisses both topped the British charts.

Thursday 26 March, Doors 7.15pm, Start 8pm

Spotlight Comedy Club

With Paul Tonkinson and Andrew Ryan. Compere: Anthony J Brown.

Friday 27 March, 8pm

T.Rextasy

The world's only official live tribute to Marc Bolan and T.Rex.

Saturday 28 March, 8pm

Modern Jive Freestyle Ball

From past and present chart music, to disco to blues and swing to Latin.

Thursday 2 April, 7.30pm

Sally Morgan

The psychic returns with her interactive stage show

Thursday 9 April, 7.30pm

The Elvis Years

Concert production of the West End musical Jailhouse Rock.



Saturday 11 April, 7.30pm

Chas and Dave: One for the Road

Tour celebrating their hit album That's What Happens.

Tuesday 14 to Sunday 19 April

Various performance times – check www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk for details

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

The popular West End musical about the boy with the coat of many colours returns to Chesterfield.

Pomegranate Theatre

www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk
Box office: 01246 345222

Saturday 14 March, 1pm and 3.30pm

Milkshake Live! Party Party

Featuring popular characters and presenters from Channel 5's Milkshake. Age 5+.

Wednesday 18 March, 7.30pm

Bleak House

The Charles Dickens classic presented by The Pantaloons Theatre Company.

Tuesday 24 to Wednesday 25 March, 7.15pm

Cats

Amateur production of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical presented by Inspirations and Directions Theatre Arts.

Saturday 28 March, 2pm and 5pm

Jurassic Adventures

Age 3+
Doctor Grant's team of explorers search for proof that dinosaurs still exist.

Monday 30 March to Saturday 4 April, 6.30pm

Don't Walk... Dance!

30th year anniversary showcase presented by Academy of Dance.

Tuesday 7 to Wednesday 8 April, 7.30pm

Bouncers

Presented by John Godber Company and Theatre Royal Wakefield, the popular play returns to the Pomegranate Theatre.

Saturday 11 April, 11am and 2.30pm

The Basil Brush Show

Basil is back with his chum Mr Stephen from Basil's smash hit TV series. Meet Basil after the show. Age 3+.

Wednesday 15 April, 7.30pm

The Nathan Carter Show

The Liverpool boy who has become one of the biggest names in Irish music performing with a six-man band.



Pomegranate Screenings

A few highlights from the screenings at the Pomegranate Theatre:

Tuesday 17 March, 7.15pm

Royal Ballet Live: Swan Lake (12A)

Anthony Dowell's opulent production of the greatest of all romantic ballets.

Friday 20 and Saturday 21 March, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Sunday 22 March, 4pm and 7.30pm, Wednesday 25 March, 11am, Thursday 26 March 7.30pm

Film: The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG)

Starring Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Richard Gere and Bill Nighy.



Saturday 21 March, 11am, Sunday 22 March, 1.30pm

Film: Big Hero Six (PG)

Action packed Disney adventure.

Thursday 9 April, 7pm

National Theatre Live: View From The Bridge (12A)

Young Vic production of the Arthur Miller play starring Mark Strong.

Tuesday 14 April, 2pm and 7.30pm
Exhibition on Screen: Vincent Van Gogh: A New Way of Seeing (12A)
Surprising new film about one of the world's favourite artists.



Thursday 16 April, 7pm

National Theatre Live: The Hard Problem (12A)

Written by Tom Stoppard, directed by Nicholas Hytner.

Tuesday 5 May, 7.15pm

Royal Ballet Live: La Fille Mal Gardee (12A)

Frederick Ashton's ballet inspired by his love for the Suffolk countryside.

Thursday 14 May, 7pm

National Theatre Live: Man and Superman (12A)

George Bernard Shaw play, starring Ralph Fiennes.

Thursday 21 May, 7.30pm

English National Opera: Pirates of Penzance (12A)

Gilbert and Sullivan's much-loved comic opera.

Wednesday 10 June, 7.15pm

Royal Opera House: La Boheme (12A)

John Copley's production of Puccini's well-loved opera.

For more listings, visit www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk/pomegranate-screenings

Handy guide to keep

This guide explains which services your council tax helps provide and how to contact the organisations providing them.

Chesterfield Borough Council receives 10 per cent of the Council Tax you pay

Contact us about:

- Abandoned vehicles
- Anti social behaviour
- Benefits advice
- Bin collections or damaged bins
- Building control
- Bulk collections
- Business rates
- Business support
- Caravan sites and illegal encampments
- Car parks (except privately run ones)
- Cemeteries
- Commercial waste
- Conservation areas
- Council Tax
- Crematorium
- Dog fouling
- Dog wardens
- Electoral registration
- Economic development
- Energy advice
- Environmental health
- Fly tipping
- Graffiti
- Homelessness
- Housing benefits
- Leisure centres (Queen's Park Sports Centre and Healthy Living Centre, Staveley)
- Licensing

- Litter problems
- Markets (indoor and outdoor)
- Museum
- Noise pollution
- Parks and open spaces
- Pest control
- Planning applications (making or commenting on one)
- Planning enforcement
- Pollution control (air, noise, odour and smoke)
- Private housing advice
- Recycling
- Street cleaning
- Stray animals
- Theatres (Winding Wheel and Pomegranate Theatre)
- Visitor information centre
- Welfare benefits

Council house issues

- Adaptations
- Choice based lettings (On the Move)
- Community involvement
- Decent homes
- Estate management
- Housing solutions team
- Rent payments and arrears
- Repairs/improvements
- Right to buy
- Sheltered housing

Contact us by:

- Visiting www.chesterfield.gov.uk
- Ringing 01246 345345
- Texting 07960 910264

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service receives 5 per cent of the Council Tax you pay

Contact them for about all fire and fire safety related issues:

- By visiting: www.derbys-fire.gov.uk
- Ringing 01332 771221 for all non-emergency calls
- Ringing 999 for emergencies only

Derbyshire Police receives 11 per cent of the Council Tax you pay

Contact them about all crime issues:

- By visiting www.derbyshire.police.uk
- Ringing 101 for all non emergencies (24 hours a day)
- Ringing 999 for emergencies only

Derbyshire County Council receives 74 per cent of the Council Tax you pay

Contact them about:

- Adoption and fostering
- Adult care (including support in the home)
- Adult community education
- Blue badge scheme
- Bus shelters
- Care homes
- Care for people with disabilities
- Children's centres
- Children and family services
- Faulty street lighting
- Gritting of roads
- Lampposts
- Library books and services
- Pavements
- Potholes
- Public transport (although services are run by private companies)
- Records office
- Recycling and waste collection centres (rubbish tip)
- Registry services (birth, marriages, deaths)
- Roads – condition
- Roads – safety and changes to road layout
- Schools
- Tapton Lock Visitor Centre
- Trading standards
- Trusted Trader Scheme
- Youth centres

Contact them:

- By visiting www.derbyshire.gov.uk
- Ringing 01629 533190
- Texting 86555

For residents of Brimington and Staveley only

Brimington Parish Council

Contact them by:

- Visiting: www.brimingtonpc.co.uk
- Ringing 01773 833805

Staveley Town Council

Contact them by:

- Visiting www.staveleytowncouncil.gov.uk
- Ringing 01246 473132