

Issue 55 Spring 2021

# contacts



[f gedlingborough](#) [gedlingbc](#) [@gedlingbc](#)

**Gedling**   
Borough Council

Serving people Improving lives



Cllr John Clarke, Cllr Peter Barnes,  
Mayor Cllr Sandra Barnes and Cllr Michael Payne

## Councillors hold candle lit vigil to commemorate 280 deaths from Covid-19 in Gedling

Gedling Borough Council has marked the tragic loss of more than 280 of its residents who have died from Covid-19, by creating a heart-shaped candle vigil in their memories.

In February, the Mayor of Gedling alongside the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council laid 280 candles to remember the 280 people who had lost their lives thus far in Gedling from Covid-19.

The candles were lit on Valentine's weekend and laid out at the Civic Centre in the shape of a heart around the council's crest to remember the husbands, wives, dads, mums, brothers, sisters, partners and loved ones who have died locally since the start of the pandemic.

Plans are also being put in place for a memorial stone to be erected in the centre of Arnold so people can pay their respects. The memorial will also be in recognition of the service and sacrifice of our NHS, care workers and all key workers who have been there for us during the pandemic.

## Council worst affected in Country

Councillors wrote a joint letter in response to the provisional local government financial settlement that left Gedling Borough Council as the worst affected council in the country for the second year in a row.

At a Full Council meeting held in January, all 41 Councillors unanimously voted in favour for a letter to be sent to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government that asks for an increase in Gedling Borough Council's share of the Local Government Finance Settlement and agreed to work with local MPs to get support for additional funding. The letter was signed by all four party Leaders and their members.

The letter states that the council is the worst affected council in terms of change of core spending power and the council has received a 20% reduction in core spending over the last six years.

Unfortunately, government Ministers have chosen to ignore the letter and issued it's final settlement figures in February with no change to Gedling's figures.

Read more about the council's financial situation on page 13.

## Arnold Market Place Update

News just in that Arnold Market Place works will start in April. The new multi-million pound development will begin in the spring and the site has been cleared. All of the current stall holders have been relocated to the nearby Eagle Square. Sign up to our newsletter for more information.



## Cabinet Members



**Cllr John Clarke**  
Leader of the Council



**Cllr Michael Payne**  
Deputy Leader Responsible for Resources and Reputation



**Cllr David Ellis**  
Responsible for Public Protection



**Cllr Jenny Hollingsworth**  
Responsible for Growth and Regeneration



**Cllr Henry Wheeler**  
Responsible for Housing, Health and Well-being



**Cllr Peter Barnes**  
Responsible for Environment



**Cllr Gary Gregory**  
Responsible for Community Development



**Cllr Viv McCrossen**  
Responsible for Young People and Equalities

For a full list of the Cabinet's responsibilities visit [www.gedling.gov.uk/councillorsmeetings](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/councillorsmeetings)



# ‘Life changing’ vaccination service opens at council centre

Gedling Borough Council opened one of the first COVID-19 vaccination services in Nottinghamshire.

We have been working with colleagues across the local health and care system to operate a NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service at the Richard Herrod Centre in Carlton.

The site, which opened in January, has been supporting the roll out of the national vaccination programme alongside other locations across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

One of the first people to receive a vaccination at the new service was John Waplinton from Arnold who described it as ‘life changing’. John is over 80 and

a former miner who worked on the nearby former Gedling Colliery. He has been shielding due to having respiratory issues caused from his time working in the pit. He received the vaccination along with thousands of others as part of the roll out. His story made it to the front pages of the Nottingham Post and was also included in national newspapers.

Since the site opened, over 25,000 people have been vaccinated across the priority order as set out by the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The NHS are contacting eligible residents by letter, email and text to notify them that they can get vaccinated.



## JVT at RHC

No, your eyes are not deceiving you. That is the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Professor Jonathan Van Tam delivering vaccinations to people at the Richard Herrod Centre. 'JVT' offered to volunteer at the centre on the first weekend of it opening, back in January, and was photographed given a vaccine to local resident, Joan Nixon, 88.



Professor Van Tam knows the area well and is a Professor at the University of Nottingham. He has played a vital role in the pandemic response and has often been part of the Downing Street briefings where his analogies have given him a bit of a cult status. Professor Van Tam's visit created headlines across the country and even made it to the front page of a national newspaper.

Professor Van Tam said: "Thank you to all the volunteers and staff for the professional and warm welcome."

If you are unable to get to a vaccination site, the vaccination programme is able to provide transport to those who meet the criteria. This will be provided by volunteers drivers and taxis. To arrange this, call 0115 883 4640 between 9am – 6pm.

**For any general enquiries about the Covid-19 vaccination programme, call 0300 500 80 80 or email: [enquiries@nottscg.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@nottscg.gov.uk)**

**For general information about the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, please visit: [www.nottscg.nhs.uk/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-in-nottingham-and-nottinghamshire](http://www.nottscg.nhs.uk/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-in-nottingham-and-nottinghamshire)**



# Gedling Plan - How we are doing

The Gedling Plan is a document that sets our priorities over the next few years. As part of the plan, we have put together a report, called the Annual Report. This provides an update on the key achievements of the plan against our five key objectives.

We have made good progress in many areas, thanks to our hard-working staff, who continue to strive to achieve the best we can for our residents, communities and businesses, despite facing significant financial pressures.

Here are some of the key achievements and performance measures over 2019/20.



## STRONG AND DYNAMIC COMMUNITIES

To promote strong, resilient communities and reduce hardship and inequality

The number of people attending shows and events at Bonington Theatre increased from **55,550** to nearly **59,000**.



We improved the average time taken to process new Housing Benefit claims (in calendar days) from **13.3** to **12.2 days**, and time taken to process Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit new claims and change of events improved to **4.3 days**.



**68** Fixed penalty notices were served for litter and dog fouling.



**£967.5k** of adaptations were funded to support people with disabilities to remain in their homes.



## HIGH PERFORMING COUNCIL

To be a high performing, efficient and effective council



High levels of customer satisfaction (**97.7%**) with overall customer service were maintained.



We have over **30,000** 'Keep Me Posted' email newsletter subscribers.

KEEP ME POSTED

**96.3%** of calls to our Contact Centre were answered or a call back made.



Almost **99%** of invoices were paid within 30 days.



# VIBRANT ECONOMY

To promote and drive sustainable growth across the borough to meet current and future needs



**85** Small and Medium Enterprises were engaged with.



**12** school based employability events and **5** Employee based employability events were delivered.



**89%** of planning applications were processed with 8 weeks.



**360** net additional homes were provided across the Borough, **18** of which were affordable homes, and **46** long term empty homes were returned to use through council intervention.



# SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

To be a high performing, efficient and effective council



Garden waste customers increased from **15,057** to nearly **16,500**.



Over **1000** activities were undertaken in our parks including those that take place on council owned sports pitches.



**33.4%** of waste is recycled.



Only **1.5%** of streets surveyed had unacceptable levels of litter.



# HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

To be a high performing, efficient and effective council



**96%** of food premises scored 4 or 5 in the national food hygiene rating scheme.



Bonington theatre saw nearly **59,000** visits.



There were over **1 million** visits to our Leisure Centres.



Over **2,600** enrolled on the swim school scheme.



For more details about our plan and priorities visit [www.gedling.gov.uk/gedlingplan](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/gedlingplan)

# 2020-A LOOK BACK

Last year was like no other and while it was tough for many of us, it didn't stop Gedling Borough Council from serving people and improving lives.

## January

At the start of the year we did what we do best.....bins! Yes, we installed 50 new bins across the borough as part of a promise to help reduce litter around Gedling.



## February

February saw the launch of a consultation on one of our most ambitious projects, the new multi-million pound Arnold Market Place. Work also started on the new £40 million Gedling Access Road, to help ease congestion in Gedling Village and facilitate the creation of over 1,000 new homes. Both projects play a major part in the council's plans to create a more vibrant economy, improve infrastructure and provide much needed new homes.

## March

Everything changed when the coronavirus hit. As the pandemic quickly took grip of the nation, the council quickly established a local emergency response committee. In just a few days, we launched our Giving for Gedling support network, turned our Richard Herrod Centre into a humanitarian centre, redeployed staff and moved most of our workforce from the civic centre to working from home while still providing our essential services.



## April

In April, the generous residents of Gedling stepped up and helped us to raise an incredible £25,000 for our Giving for Gedling foodbank appeal in just a few days. The appeal raised enough money to support hundreds of our most vulnerable residents.



## May

By May, we had paid out over £12.3 million in business support grants and were urging more businesses to get in touch to ensure they were getting the right support. Our grant advisors made appointments with businesses to go through the application process and make sure they received payments as quickly as possible.

## June

By the start of summer, the humanitarian centre and foodbank had supported over 800 households. The money raised by the residents of Gedling helped some of the most vulnerable in our communities, many of them over the age of 70. We also had over 500 people sign up to help volunteer.



## July

Our parks and open spaces have played a vital role in supporting people during lockdown. In July, we opened two stunning viewing platforms at Gedling Country Park, both with incredible views of the borough and, on a good day, you can even see Lincoln Cathedral. It was part of the council's plan to help promote healthier lifestyles.



## 10 Contacts

### August

As part of our goal to revitalise town centres, in August we unveiled an ambitious project to improve Carlton Square. Thanks to external funding, we revealed plans that included a new entrance, new car parking, new paving and improved access.



### September

In September, we announced ambitious plans for a new mineral line in Netherfield that would significantly improve the infrastructure and there's even talk of a possible tram route that could link up to Gedling Country Park.

### October

As thousands of people flocked to our parks for exercise, we were delighted to receive four Green Flag Awards in October for our flagship parks including a first for Bestwood Country Park. The Green Flag Award is given to parks that are an outstanding open space that has shown what an important contribution they make to people who visit them.



### November

As the second wave of the pandemic hit, once again, our residents responded and helped us raise £10,000 for children in Gedling. Inspired by Marcus Rashford's call to support children during half term, we set up a fundraiser and raised enough money to support families in need over the Christmas period. Over 600 food and gifts parcels were delivered to families eligible for the meals during half term.

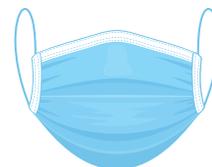


## December

In December, we launched our annual Bulky Waste Collection and the free collections went out like hot cakes with over 700 bookings taking place on the first day! This scheme helped residents get rid of unwanted items, reduces fly tipping and in a bleak winter, every little helps.



So that's 2020. It has been one of the most challenging years for Gedling Borough Council but thanks to the hard work of our staff, the support of our residents and the belief that life will be better, we have fully embodied our ethos of serving people, improving lives.



12 Contacts

# Over 600 families supported with festive food parcels



Volunteer from Carlton Digby School with Deputy Leader Cllr Michael Payne at the food bank

Over 600 families received special food and Christmas parcels thanks to a council campaign and the generosity of residents across Gedling Borough who donated £10,000.

Gedling Borough Council co-ordinated a festive food parcel delivery to families identified as needing support over the Christmas period. Each parcel contained fresh food, fruit and vegetables, festive treats, a festive craft pack produced by local play charity the Gedling Play Forum, activity ideas, family recipes and important wellbeing advice.

The parcels, which were put together by volunteers at one of the council's leisure centres, the Richard Herrod Centre, were delivered between 14 – 18 December and distributed through the local schools and family support teams network.

The council launched a Feeding Gedling Children campaign in October and raised £10,000 in support of footballer Marcus Rashford's campaign to end child food poverty. Hundreds of residents donated to the cause and the money was used to create and deliver the 600 parcels.

The council has worked with local churches, family support groups, children's services and schools to identify the most vulnerable families in the borough who would benefit from the Feeding Gedling funding.

**We would like to thank everyone who donated to the fund. You all contributed to ensuring that children in Gedling did not go hungry during the half term holidays.**



# COUNCIL BUDGET AGREED



The budget for the next financial year has been agreed by Councillors at a special Budget Council held at the beginning of March.

Every year we spend around £11.7 million on a wide range of services. This year we continue to face significant pressures to deliver with reduced resources. Since 2010, our grants from the Government have been reduced and for the last two years we have become the worst affected council in England in terms of core spending power, facing a reduction of 20.2% in funding since 2015/16.

Gedling consistently strives to provide good value for money for all its residents, but with no additional funding, we are reluctantly left with no choice but to raise our share of the council tax bill by 2.97% for the coming year. This equates to £3.33 per year / 6p per week for a Band A property, or £5.00 per year / 10p per week for a Band D property.

Having been hit with a £5.8 million cut in money to spend on local services, we are working hard to deliver savings to ensure our community continues to receive the high quality services it needs and deserves.

The council has also approved a £6.5m programme of ways to save money.

The cost of responding to the coronavirus outbreak has, so far, cost the council nearly £4 million and the government funding so far has left us with a £415,000 funding gap which could rise to nearly £1 million that will need to be found by savings or cuts in other services.

Despite the difficulties of having to find this money, there are plans for investment in the borough, including the continuing improvements for Arnold Market Place and Carlton Town Centre. We are also investing in our parks and open spaces including plans for new toilets at King George V. There are also plans to invest in ways to help reduce homelessness and reliance on temporary accommodation. We are also investing in making homes more energy efficient as part of work to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon neutral by 2030.

**For more information about our budget visit [www.gedling.gov.uk](http://www.gedling.gov.uk)**

# LOCAL ELECTIONS 2021

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Nottinghamshire County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections will take place on Thursday 6 May.

### ELECTION FAQs

## WILL IT BE SAFE TO VOTE?

Polling stations will be open on 6 May and will have safety measures in place; so should you wish, you will be able to vote in person. If voting in person, you are encouraged to keep yourself and others safe at the polling station by:

- Wearing a face covering
- Bringing your own pen or pencil
- Cleaning your hands when entering and leaving the polling station
- Keeping a safe distance

If you would prefer not to vote in person, there are different ways to vote – you can vote by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote. If you already have a postal or proxy vote arrangement in place, and your details have not changed, you don't need to take any action. If in doubt, you can check with the elections team.

## WHO WILL I BE VOTING FOR?

On 6 May 2021 there will be elections for all the seats on Nottinghamshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). County councillors are responsible for making decisions about services run by Nottinghamshire County Council which includes education, social care and transport. There are currently 66 County Councillors who represent 56 areas across the County. The PCC is responsible for setting the priorities for the police force in Nottinghamshire, responding to the needs of local communities, setting the policing budget, and monitoring how well the police are performing.



**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**DON'T LOSE IT**



# WHO CAN VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS?

Anybody who is 18 or over on the 6 May 2021 is eligible to vote. You must, however, be registered to vote. To check if you are on the register contact the elections office on 0115 901 3917 [elections@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:elections@gedling.gov.uk)



**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**DON'T LOSE IT**

## WHO CAN VOTE?

If you are a British, EU or Commonwealth citizen, you are entitled to vote at these elections and are not affected by the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union.

## HOW DO I VOTE?

Everyone on the register will be sent a poll card. The card will give information about the election and where you need to go to cast your vote. Please read this carefully as a small number of polling stations will have changed since the last election. Information on how to vote will be displayed in polling stations or you can ask the staff. If you cannot attend your polling station on Thursday May 6 you can apply for a postal or proxy vote.



## POSTAL AND PROXY VOTES

If you are unable or do not want to vote in person at the election you can apply for a postal or proxy vote. If you have a postal vote we will send ballot papers to your home address for you to complete and send back to us. A proxy vote is where you give somebody else permission to go to the polling station and vote on your behalf. Postal and proxy votes can apply for this election only or for all future elections and you must fill in and sign an application form. For security you will need to provide your date of birth and a signature.

**Application forms are available to download at [www.gedling.gov.uk/elections](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/elections) or contact us for one to be sent. The deadline to apply to vote by post is 20 April. For proxy votes, the deadline is 27 April**

**REGISTER TO VOTE**

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS, DON'T LOSE IT**

**Register to vote by 19 April  
for the May elections**

IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE REGISTER YOU WON'T BE ABLE  
TO VOTE AND HAVE YOUR SAY ON THURSDAY 6 MAY.

To check if you are registered call us on 0115 901 3917 or email us [elections@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:elections@gedling.gov.uk)

**To register:**

**Go to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)**

**Call us on 0115 901 3917**

**To speak to someone in person, please make an appointment in advance.**

You need to provide a few details to register – including your national insurance number and date of birth.  
This is to make the electoral register more secure.



## New for 2021

The Lotto has also developed and now offers even more prizes for good cause supporters to win, and for their good causes to receive extra funding too. Gedling Lotto now has entry to the additional national bolt-on prizes throughout the year, including a £100 Etsy voucher for the winner and £100 cash donation for their chosen good cause!

Tickets are still £1 with 60p going to good causes across Gedling Borough – which is DOUBLE the National Lottery contribution! Every ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize and draws take place every week.

## Register today for free

It's quick and easy to register, simply visit the Gedling Lotto website and sign up for free! There are no set up or admin fees and you will receive free marketing materials to help you promote the lotto to your supporters. You've nothing to lose and a valuable funding stream to gain.



## Gedling Lotto raising £20,000 for good causes

It has been nearly a year since the Gedling Lotto launch event and it's raised thousands for good causes. When we launched the new local community lotto last February, none of us could have foreseen the devastating impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

The lottery has proved to be a sustainable fundraising solution for local not-for-profit-organisations across the borough since launching, raising £20,000 per year.

We realise that many charities, community projects and groups have been unable to carry out their usual fundraising activities and need supporters more than ever. It may be time to revisit the Gedling Lotto to see how it could help provide much needed funds for your organisation.

### What the lotto has achieved so far

Since the Gedling Lotto launched last September;

- **27** good causes have been benefitting from the lotto
- **£20,155** has been raised in total for these wonderful causes so far.





## CARLTON SQUARE WORKS START THANKS TO SUCCESSFUL FUNDING BID

The redevelopment of Carlton Square has begun following the approval of the contractors and confirmation of a successful funding bid for £350,000.

Gedling Borough Council has confirmed that Lindum Group has won the contract to revitalise the town centre and pre-construction works have now begun on site.

This coincides with the announcement that the D2N2 will provide £350,000 to the project from its Local Growth Fund. The D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is one of 38 LEPs across England. D2N2's private sector-led Board represents business, local authorities, skills and training providers, and voluntary and community organisations. It promotes economic growth and jobs creation in Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire; using UK Government and European funding.

Works will include a new entrance to the car park from Burton Road, a new car parking layout, including improved disabled parking spaces in the southern car

park. There will also be new planting and boundary treatments, new paving and improved access between the car park and shopping area and a revised siting of payment machines and lighting.

As part of the council's plans to reduce carbon emissions and improve air pollution in Gedling, they will be installing a number of Electric Car Charging Points in the town centre car park, you can read more about them on page 26.

Consultation on the plans took place last year and 97% of people who responded to the survey agreed that it was important to improve the town centre. The council also held a number of events in the centre to show shoppers and businesses the proposals.

The project is part of a wider regeneration programme for Carlton and it will contribute towards one of the council's main priorities to regenerate its town centres and create a more vibrant economy.



## £100,000 refurbishment at play area in Woodthorpe

Breck Hill Park in Woodthorpe will be improved thanks to funding from FCC Communities foundation, a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, conservation and heritage projects from funds donated by waste and resource management company FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund. FCC Communities Foundation will be providing a grant total of £100,000.

The refurbishments include 22 individual facilities such as balance beams, Olympic basket swings,

a wheelchair accessible roundabout, climbing net, multi play unit and more. As well as the play facilities themselves, tables and chairs, cycle stands and a wildflower area also form part of the works.

The funding bid was made jointly by Gedling Borough Council and the Friends of Breck Hill Park, a local residents' community group who undertook community consultation and identified a strong community need for the project.

## Refurbishment on the way for Killisick park

The Killisick Recreational Ground in Arnold will be improved thanks to £100,000 in funding from FCC Communities.

The funding bid was made jointly by Gedling Borough Council and the The Friends of Killisick Park, a local

residents' community group who undertook community consultation and identified a strong community need for the project. Work on the park is expected to start in June and be completed later in the summer.

# Council reduces carbon footprint by 50%



A new report, commissioned as part of our work to reduce our carbon footprint, has revealed that the council has reduced the carbon caused by staff commuting by 50%, as most of the staff are regularly working from home. This equates to a carbon saving equivalent to approximately 2 tonnes per week.

In November 2019, we declared a climate emergency recognising the serious immediate and future impacts of global warming, and committing to take action at the local level. As part of that declaration, we commissioned a report to find out what our carbon footprint was and in 2019 our emissions totalled 1,675 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. This

included our electricity usage, natural gas usage and council vehicle emissions. The new figures for 2020 show that commutes to work have halved and our carbon footprint has reduced by 53%.

The council has agreed to invest £200,000 in projects and policies that will reduce our carbon emissions further with an aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

We have been working with other councils and the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership to look at ways we can improve sustainability, create greener infrastructure, decarbonise our vehicles and invest in more green energy.



## 'Changing Places' toilets planned for Arnold park

We can announce plans to install new toilets near a play area in Arnold that includes a 'Changing Places' toilet for people with severe disabilities.

The toilets, if approved, will be located near the popular King George V Park and play area near Arnold Town Centre. They will contain three accessible toilets and the Changing Places toilet.

The Changing Places toilet is the second of its kind in the borough after one was installed at the visitor centre at Gedling Country Park. It will meet the needs of people with profound and multiple disabilities, as well as people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis who often need extra equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably.

**Consultation on the plans for the toilets took place in February. For the latest updates about the council's project and plans, sign up to our Latest News email bulletin at [www.gedling.gov.uk/keepmeposted](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/keepmeposted)**

## A 'Green Lung' for Gedling

Plans are being proposed to improve access to an area of green open space in Mapperley to create a 'green lung' for residents to enjoy.

Councillors are looking at proposals to improve connectivity between Digby Park on Mapperley Plains and Gedling Country Park. The plans would create a walking route from the urban entrance to Digby Park and crossover the new Gedling Access Road and into the park from Arnold Lane.

If approved, it would open up acres of land near the Mapperley Golf Course and create a 'green lung' that would attract visitors who want to enjoy a long walk with stunning views and access the park without the need for transport.

The project would highlight the heritage and history of the area and would promote some of the council's main priorities, which are to create healthier lifestyles for residents while creating a more sustainable environment by improving connectivity and access to green space.

A budget for the plans is being set up and the council has already begun to look at potential external funding opportunities from local developers.



# Sign up to our Garden Waste Scheme



Reduce the hassle of disposing of your garden waste and join 16,000 members by signing up to our Garden Waste Scheme.

Order your bin at [www.gedling.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/gardenwaste) or by calling 0115 901 3621

**£38**  
per year  
additional bins cost  
£20 per year



[www.gedling.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

## Do you need help with your rent or Council Tax?

If you are unemployed or on a low income you may be entitled to help towards your rent or council tax.

To find out if you are eligible, complete our benefits application form online at [www.gedling.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/benefits) or speak to our customer services team over the phone on 0115 901 3970

Before completing an application you can get an idea of what support you might be entitled to by using our online benefits calculator at [www.gedling.gov.uk/calculator](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/calculator)

If you are entitled to Housing Benefit, the rent element of Universal Credit or are in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction award but you are still in financial hardship, you may be entitled to a discretionary hardship payment. There is no guarantee that an award will be made and each application will be determined based upon that households individual financial circumstances.



**Go to [www.gedling.gov.uk/support](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/support)**

**Or speak to our Customer Services team on 0115 901 3970**



## My Council Tax bill has arrived, do I need to call the council?

We get a lot of calls when the Council Tax bills go out in March and it can be difficult to get through so here are some tips on whether or not you need to call us;

If you currently pay by Direct Debit, it will automatically continue so you don't need to do anything. If unsure, check the payment method on the instalments part of your bill.

Want to pay by Direct Debit? No problem, just visit [www.gedling.gov.uk/directdebit](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/directdebit) to provide your details over our secure website, and we will sort it out for you.

If your circumstances have changed, you can inform us online. It's quick, easy and will save you time waiting to get through on the phone.





## Plans to protect bees

We are creating a plan to help protect bees, improve their habitats and improve pollination.

Bees and other pollinators play an essential role in our ecosystem and are vital to our food crops, our gardens and our countryside, but their numbers are declining and some species have even become extinct.

This decline is due to a number of factors including disease, climate change, loss of habitat and the use of insecticides such as neonicotinoids ('neonics').

Councillors agreed at a full council meeting in January that we would look at a number of ways to protect bee and pollinator habitats such as:

- Encouraging all new developments to provide for pollinators.
- Stopping the use of insecticides on local authority land.
- Establishing wildflower meadows on un-used areas of parks and public greenspace.
- Planting pollinator-friendly plants in parks, gardens and green spaces.
- Planting trees for bees – blossom producing spring flowering trees such as apple, cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, willow.
- Working with Nottinghamshire County Council to manage road verges for spring and late summer flowers.



Firework displays across the borough will soon be changing as part of a new council policy to protect vulnerable people and animals.

Fireworks are often used throughout the year to mark different events and while they can bring much enjoyment, for some they can be very stressful, especially for vulnerable people and pets, livestock and other wildlife. Not only can they cause psychological stress, but can also lead to serious injuries.

Councillors have agreed to introduce a number of changes to reduce the impact of public. All public displays on council owned land will need to be advertised in advance to allow residents to take precautions where needed and fireworks suppliers will be encouraged to stock quieter fireworks to help minimise the disruptions.

The council will also be supporting the RSPCA in their campaign to make fireworks safer as well as writing to the UK government asking them to limit the legal maximum noise of fireworks sold to the public.



# Warmer homes support

The Warm Homes Hub is supporting thousands of residents struggling with their health, heating, household income and energy costs as a result of COVID-19.

Through the Hub, eligible homeowners and tenants will be able to improve the warmth and comfort of their homes and benefit from:

- **free gas connection**
- **free 1st time central heating**
- **free cavity wall/loft insulation**

As well as improving the energy efficiency of the home, the switch to gas heating can see significant improvements in health, as it reduces the risk of cold related illnesses and decreases the chances of damp and mould. Even better, this offer will save residents up to £5,000 on the installation costs and create further savings on energy bills.

For those struggling with broken or faulty heating, who already have central heating systems in their property, the Hub offers grants towards heating replacements and urgent repairs for residents who may not be able to get the issue resolved.

For households possibly facing unemployment due to the crisis, a range of financial support services is also available including:

- a professional benefit check service to help you discover the financial support you are eligible for
- help towards the cost of gas, electricity and water bills with one-off vouchers or discounts
- support with finding the best energy tariff for your pocket

**To find out more visit:  
warmhomeshub.com  
or call the 0115 985 3000  
Mon to Thurs 9am – 5.30pm  
and Fri 9am – 5pm**

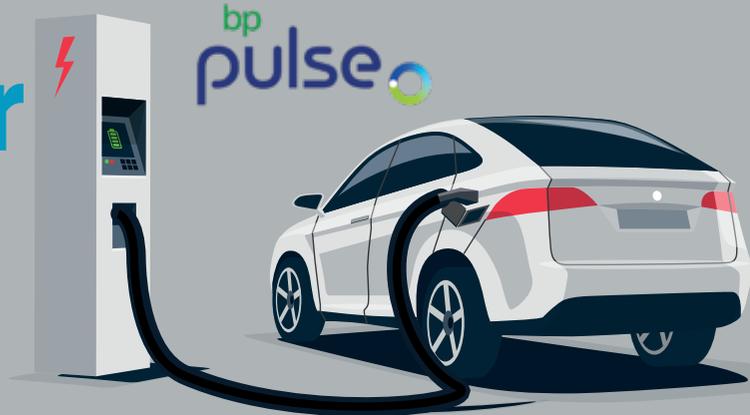


## **“I saved 90% on water bill”**

Mrs W is one of the first Gedling residents who benefitted from a brand-new central heating system and an A rated boiler, having previously relied on electric storage heaters which she found to make her bills excessively high. Thanks to the Warm Homes Hub, Mrs W was connected to the gas network, received a new central heating system and even benefitted from a 90% discount on her water bill.

Mrs W from Netherfield said;  
**“I would definitely recommend others to the scheme, I actually recommended my Mum’s neighbour and they have now had their first time central heating done too! I count myself so lucky to have received this help”**

# Electric car charging points



As part of our plans to reduce carbon emissions and improve air pollution in Gedling, we can announce that we will be installing a number of Electric Car Charging Points across the borough.

We have successfully applied for grants totalling £100,000 from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles to install points on some of our car parking areas.

We will be installing eight charging points in each of the following car parks:

- **St Albans Rd, Arnold, NG5 6JJ**
- **St Michaels Avenue, Gedling NG4 3NN**
- **Carlton Square, Carlton NG4 3BP**
- **Standhill Road, Carlton NG4 1JL**

The sites were chosen due to their location and proximity to houses where there was limited access

to off street parking making it difficult to install charging points on properties. The points are being installed with BP Pulse, operators of the existing GoUltra Low Network, who are also contributing towards the cost of installation.

Each car parking area will have eight Electric Vehicle bays to use by anyone during the day and local residents will have access to charge their cars overnight, with no car parking charge, from 6pm until 8am.

The new charging points are part of the council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2030, improve air quality and create a more sustainable environment.





ALL WE ASK  
IS YOU WEAR  
A MASK



EUROPEAN UNION  
European Regional Development Fund



HM Government

Gedling  
Borough Council



# Are you Bin smart?



Right Waste



Right Bin

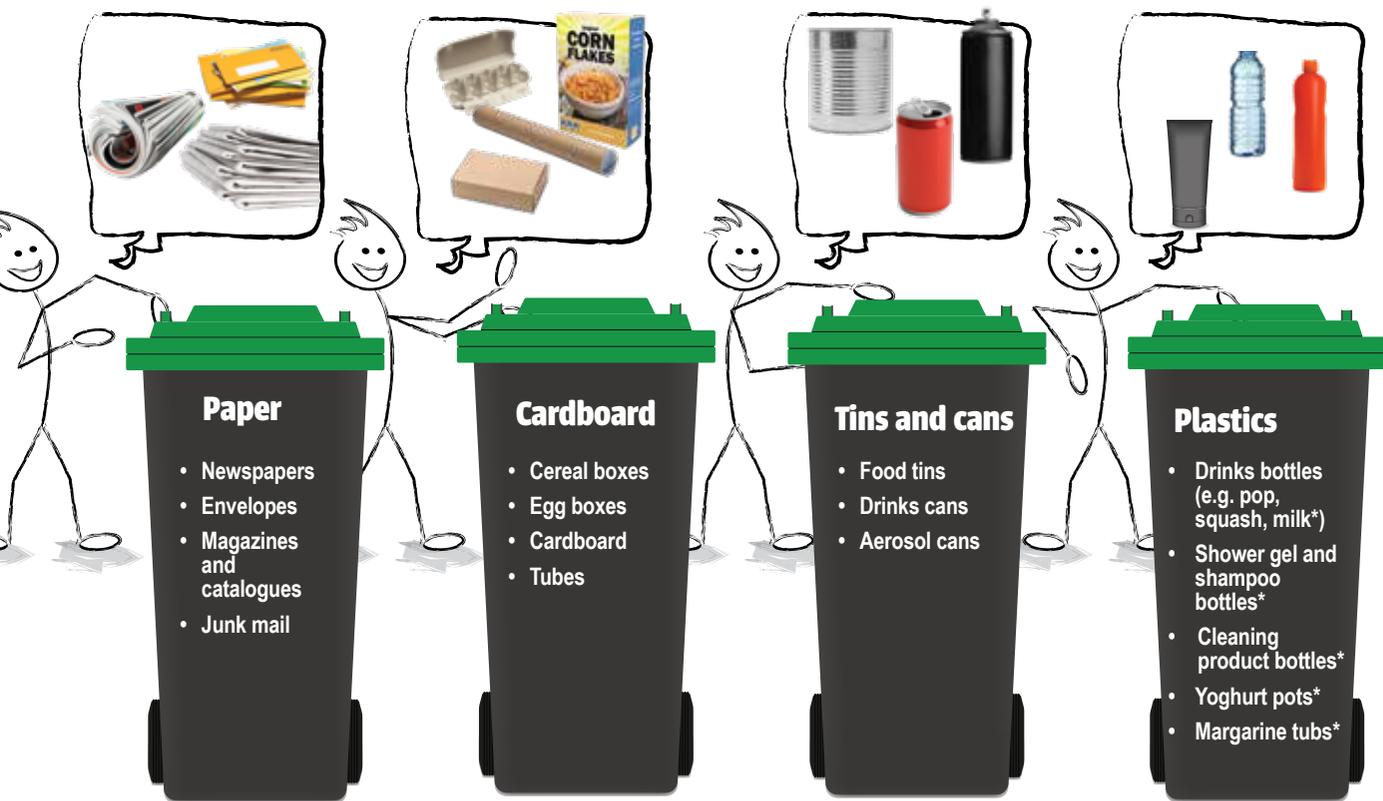


Bin Smart

With a few easy steps, we can reduce contaminated bins. Here's what you need to know:

Only these items can go into your recycling bin and they should be clean, dry, empty and loose and not placed in plastic bags.

Remember –  
if in doubt,  
leave it out



Thank you for recycling  
[www.recyclefornottinghamshire.co.uk](http://www.recyclefornottinghamshire.co.uk)

\*Please take your lids off and put them in your general waste bin.



# Parked cars and bin collections

With many of us are spending more time at home at the moment, this also means more cars and vehicles parked on streets and side roads during the day too.

We've also seen an increase in the number of times our bin lorries can't get down roads to collect residents bins due to badly parked vehicles blocking access.

We know a lot of things are far from ideal at the moment, but by parking considerately you'll help us collect bins on the first try, causing less disruptions for residents.

**If you're not sure what day your bin collection is, sign up to our bin alert reminders, sent to you the night before your collection is due [www.gedling.gov.uk/reminder](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/reminder)**



# TREE SERVICES

Trusted, professional tree surgeons providing affordable, quality services

## OUR SERVICES

- Tree pruning
- Tree removals
- Hedge trimming
- Tree assessment

**Find out more online or call for a no obligation quote:  
[www.gedling.gov.uk/TreesContacts](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/TreesContacts) Tel. 0115 901 3713**



When we reopen

# WE WILL

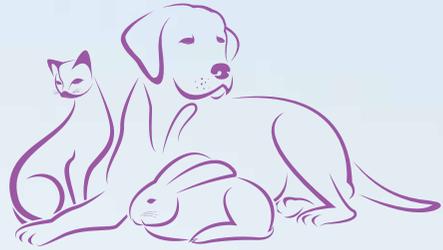
do this together...

- ⚡ Strict adherence to industry safety guidelines
- ⚡ No contracts
- ⚡ No joining fees
- ⚡ Virtual workouts
- ⚡ Boditrax assessments
- ⚡ 25 metre swimming pools
- ⚡ One2One fitness programmes
- ⚡ Group exercise classes including Les Mills Body Pump

**Gym / Swim / Classes / Virtual**

Redhill | Carlton Forum | Calverton | Arnold

[www.gedling.gov.uk/leisure](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/leisure)



## Gedling Pet Cremation Services

When the time comes to say goodbye to your pet, we will be there for you.

Find out more,  
call 0115 901 3713

[www.gedlingpetcremations.co.uk](http://www.gedlingpetcremations.co.uk)



HM Government

**Gedling**  
Borough Council  
Serving people **Improving lives**



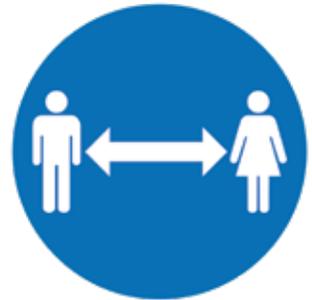
# We must keep on protecting each other.



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**