

Chronicle

SPECIAL

Stevenage Borough Council's quarterly residents' magazine

Winter 2020



WORKING TOGETHER



SUPPORTING LOCAL PEOPLE



CO-OPERATIVE WORKING



**“Working together for
Co-operative Neighbourhoods”**

Stevenage
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Co-operative Neighbourhoods

The desire for our neighbourhoods to be places where people want to live; where they can thrive, work, enjoy themselves, raise a family if they choose and give them the best start in life is something that we all share. It's why we are making changes to help us better work together for the future.

Co-operative Neighbourhoods is about making better connections between the council and our communities. It's a partnership between residents, public and voluntary services and the businesses based in the town.

Six new Co-operative Neighbourhoods teams will:

- Connect staff from different services who work in the same part of Stevenage so they can provide better services to residents.
- Help us to respond more quickly to things you are concerned about.
- Make it easier for you to shape the services and projects in your neighbourhood.
- And help us to support the activities of residents and communities who want to improve their neighbourhoods and create new opportunities for themselves.

You will hear a lot more from your own Co-operative Neighbourhoods team in the future and will find out how, by working together, we can not only deliver great services and improvements but we can also support residents in doing more of what

you think really matters. To find out how to get involved and help make a difference to your neighbourhood, check out the map to see which team covers your area and who to contact. We look forward to hearing from you.

In this special edition of the Chronicle, we have highlighted some great examples of how this approach is already working. Of course the restrictions placed on us all by Covid-19 means that we haven't been able to do as much recently as we would like – but we can't wait to do more and to see how Co-operative Neighbourhoods can help to rebuild those all-important community connections.



Aldon Patience –
Town Centre



Mark Kerry –
South Stevenage
Shephall, Bandle
Hill, Longmeadow,
Roebuck



Sue Amey –
North Stevenage
St Nicholas, Martins
Wood, Symonds Green
Woodfield, Old Town



Paul Batterbee –
Central Stevenage
Bedwell, Pin Green,
Chells, Manor



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chronicle@stevenage.gov.uk



@stevenageboroughcouncil



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St Nicholas gets the 'Love your Garden' treatment



Residents of St Nicholas have brought some colour and new life into their neighbourhood and shopping precinct with a garden makeover.

With Alan Titchmarsh unavailable, ward councillors used their local community budget and called on Waste Not Want Not, a local Stevenage charity who specialise in plants and gardens, to help out.

The main precinct planter was cleared and new shrubs put in around the Christmas Tree. In addition, two planters, that were no

longer needed in the town centre, were given a new life on either side of the new noticeboard in the shopping precinct. After being painted, bright flowers and fresh plants helped to give the area a welcome new look.

The next project the green-fingered team will tackle is to create a community orchard in the ABC park behind Wellfield Court. Eight fruit trees will be planted during the dormant winter months.

Local residents will take on the crucial task of helping to maintain

the planters and the orchard and will no doubt enjoy the fruits of their labour. If you would like to find out more or get involved then please contact the Community Development team by email: community.development@stevenage.gov.uk

How can you volunteer?

Green Space Volunteers and Stevenage Health Walk Leaders

For more information go to the website: <https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/> and search the term 'volunteering'.

For further information on how to get involved, contact the Community Development team on community.development@stevenage.gov.uk

Meet your Co-operative Neighbourhood team

Each team is made up of officers from housing, community safety, community development and staff from Stevenage Direct Services who look after open spaces, refuse and recycling and repairs.

These of the teams are overseen by a member of our Senior Leadership Team.



Old Town, Symonds Green, Woodfield
Richard Protheroe



Martins Wood and St Nicholas
Rob Gregory



Chells and Manor
Ruth Luscombe



Longmeadow and Roebuck
Tom Pike



Bandley Hill and Shephall
Steve Dupoy



Bedwell and Pin Green
Jaine Cresser

Get involved and do more of what matters to you

If you'd like to help improve your neighbourhood, your town or the lives of people who live in Stevenage, then there are plenty of ways that you can get involved – even if all you can spare is an hour or two a week or a month.

PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT

Local residents and businesses are being invited to pledge their support for a new charter. The Cooperative and Inclusive Economy Charter aims to secure 100 pledges in 100 days, and there are lots of ways to get involved.

The charter is part of our commitment to Community Wealth Building, which focuses on strengthening the local economy by stopping money from leaking out of the area. Some examples of how this can be achieved include using local goods and services, and in the case of employers, providing work placements and apprenticeships to local people.

To read the charter and to pledge your support visit:

<https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/town-and-community/community-wealth-building>



Ryan Ansell, who joined Stevenage Borough Council as an apprentice in 2017, has seen first-hand why apprenticeships are so important. Ryan is now part of the Cooperative Neighbourhoods Team. He has pledged his support to the charter.



Do you need funding to help with a community project?




If you have an idea for a project that will benefit your community, funding may be available to you. A number of local funding streams are available, including:

- Local Community Budget Fund
- Co-operative Youth Work Fund
- Stevenage Community Trust

For more information, please contact community.development@stevenage.gov.uk



Stevenage Borough Council,
Daneshill House, Danestrete,
Stevenage, SG1 1HN
Telephone: 01438 242242
web: stevenage.gov.uk

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TELL US WHAT MATTERS TO YOU - PRIZE DRAW

Win a shopping voucher to the value of £30

Do you want to get involved with improving your neighbourhood? Would you like the opportunity to create a new activity or scheme where you live? Let the community development team know by completing the tear off slip and returning it to us. Alternatively email us: community.development@stevenage.gov.uk