

Citivision

News, features and updates about what's happening in the city

Spring 2023



A personal message from Cllr George Duggins, Leader, Coventry City Council.

The green industrial revolution

We've recently launched a consultation on our draft Climate Change Strategy for Coventry and this must have the involvement of the community, businesses and other organisations for it to work.

Details are highlighted in this issue of Citivision, and the stakes are high. We need to take a lead in the green industrial revolution but, at the same time, we also need to support our most disadvantaged families and residents.

The cost of living crisis has meant more people are facing rent areas and we highlight a really important scheme where we have bought properties to turn into temporary houses for homeless families.

There are other examples of how together there is help with rising costs - including our school holidays support programme - and how you can access it.

Other issues covered include details of Council apprenticeships, opportunities in social work, and I'm delighted that we can highlight how our Youth Justice Services has been rated outstanding for its efforts to help children and young people steer away from crime.

Plus, we highlight a new Voter ID scheme which will mean, for this year's local elections, you will need an accepted form of ID when you turn up to the polling station.

There's lots more to read about, including some great upcoming events.



Facing up to Climate Change in Coventry

The Council has launched its draft Climate Change Strategy for Coventry and is talking to organisations, businesses and the community about what it means for them and how they can support it.

The draft strategy sets out the foundations for creating a sustainable zero carbon city, and the Council now wants to discuss it with local people as part of a community engagement programme.

The strategy will help to deliver the city's One Coventry Plan, which includes tackling the causes and consequences of climate change as one of its three key priorities.

Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, said:

"We've already achieved a lot in Coventry from transport innovations to better energy efficiency in public buildings and residential homes, we've also got a growing number of businesses signed up to greener policies and have a strategy in place for making the best use of our green spaces."

"There is a lot at stake and that's why everyone in the city has to be involved. There are economic opportunities too - job opportunities in the green business sector and we want to be a leading city for this work."

"We also need to support our most disadvantaged families and residents so that they can benefit from things like energy retrofitting."

The strategy will also aim to mitigate the impact of climate change and will help to build resilience across the city.

More details on page 3 >>>



Worried about the cost of living?

Don't suffer alone. We're here to help you

Visit: www.coventry.gov.uk/costofliving

or call **08085 834 333** #OneCoventryTogether



Council buys houses for homeless families

Coventry City Council is buying properties to provide more large homes for families who find themselves homeless.



The latest property to be purchased is on Gulson Road. The building was a former HMO which has been refurbished and now provides a large temporary family home. The Council is buying 50 homes in total amounting to £13m, providing three or more bedroom properties for temporary accommodation.

Councillor David Welsh, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, said he is delighted that a former HMO is now going to provide a family home.

He said: *"This is great news and provides one of the largest properties for families who may otherwise have had to be housed outside of Coventry or in bed and breakfast accommodation."*

"The home in Gulson Road was a HMO and is now a home for a large family. The transformation is incredible. "Since we bought the first properties the feedback from tenants has been really positive. Our approach also aims to reduce the concentration of HMOs in certain neighbourhoods."

Apprenticeships at Coventry City Council

As an apprentice at Coventry City Council, you will gain new knowledge, experiences and qualifications, all whilst earning a salary.



We see the value in apprenticeships as a foundation of a great career and offer a range of opportunities and career pathways including: *Business Administration, Civil Engineering, Customer Service, Early Years, Electrical, Finance, Highways, Horticulture, Legal,*

Plumbing, P.E/School Sports, Teaching Assistant, Vehicle Mechanic and we're adding more all the time. Apprenticeships at Coventry City Council offer you the chance to start a career and reach your potential in a supportive and structured environment.

For more details visit our website: www.coventry.gov.uk/apprenticeships, check our Instagram page @apprenticeships_ccc or e-mail apprenticeships@coventry.gov.uk

Help with property clearances

Local people are being reminded about a property clearance service run by Coventry City Council.

The scheme operates across a wide range of domestic and commercial property.

It is available for people who may have had a bereavement in the family, for tenants affected by hoarding, or an elderly relative moving into a care home.

It also applies to commercial businesses including clearance

of office furniture or clearance of an industrial unit.

The Property Clearance Team arranges skip hire, permits and disposal of confidential waste.

The service also includes garden clearances and pest control.

It does not include the removal of hazardous waste, fridges or freezers.

For details call **024 7683 2658** or visit www.coventry.gov.uk/houseclearance

Thank you from the NSPCC

The NSPCC has praised the generosity of Coventry residents who have donated in support of its services, including its helpline for anyone concerned about the welfare of a child.

Street collections were held across the city in the run up to Christmas with the support of the Council's licensing department.

Volunteers collected a total of **£349.97** which will fund NSPCC services for children and young people in Coventry.

Anyone concerned about the welfare of a child, or who wants to discuss any issue, big or small, can contact the NSPCC, via **0808 800 5000**, help@nspcc.org.uk or www.nspcc.org.uk; or **Childline**, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on **0800 1111** or at www.childline.org.uk

You could be the difference

Foster with Coventry

FOSTER WITH COVENTRY

www.coventry.gov.uk/fostering



Supporting Ukrainian refugees

More than a year after the invasion of Ukraine by Russian armed forces, Coventry residents are still offering generous support in sharing any spare accommodation they may have to support Ukrainian refugees.

The city has displayed incredible generosity in rising to the challenge of the refugee crisis.

Coventry residents have an unrivalled international reputation for being one of the most generous, compassionate,

and welcoming people anywhere in the world.

Now, Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre is asking to speak to any Coventry residents who have the ability and capacity to accommodate Ukrainian nationals continuing to flee the war.

*If you have spare capacity in your house or flat to open your home for at least six months and support those who are most vulnerable while they find their feet here in Coventry, please contact **Caroline Higgins** by emailing: carolineh@covrefugee.org*

Youth Justice Service is 'outstanding'!

The Council's Youth Justice Service has been awarded an 'outstanding' grade after an inspection by HMI Probation.



The detailed inspection saw six inspectors visit the service for a week to talk to officers, children and families and look at how the team works.

The YJS aims to prevent offending and reduce the number of children entering the justice system, working with families, victims and partner organisations to keep children and young people away from crime and create safer communities.

The 'outstanding' award comes just months after the city's Children's Services was rated as 'good' by Ofsted.

Cllr Patricia Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said:

"The 'outstanding' award is a huge achievement and yet more recognition of the work being done in the city to put children and families right at

the heart of all we do.

"The team works hard to give our children and young people the support they need to turn their lives around and succeed in life, and I am delighted that work has been recognised."

John Gregg, Director of Children's Services, added:

"This recognition follows the praise by Ofsted for our Children's Services, and

reflects a lot of hard work by many caring and dedicated people over recent years.

"It is fantastic news, but as ever, we will continue to work with partners, families and residents to continually improve and do everything we can to give our children and young people the best start in life and create safer, happier communities."

The full report, which also features areas for future development and learning, is available at www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation



Five key areas covered in the Climate Change Strategy

The city's Climate Change Strategy covers a vast array of issues. Each of the five topics has its own working group and is chaired by different partner organisations across the city.

To get involved visit: letstalk.coventry.gov.uk/climate-change-strategy
The Council hopes to have the final strategy confirmed in the summer.

In summary (continued from front page)

Low emissions –

aims to reduce our use of fossil fuels and hydrocarbons.

Examples include: creating a solar farm, working with housing associations and householders to retrofit homes to make them more energy efficient, introduction of electric buses and Very Light Rail.

Circular development –

aims to recycle and reuse products and waste.

Examples include: constructing new materials and recycling facilities, and practical support to businesses to help them recycle and reuse materials.

Nature-based development –

aims to protect our habitats and our city's wildlife.

Examples include: creating new habitats for wildlife to inhabit, planting more trees and flowering plants. This includes the new Sherbourne Valley Scheme.

Resilient development –

aims to cope with the consequences of climate change.

Examples include: having the infrastructure in place to help us cope with extreme weather events, identifying areas most at risk of flooding and putting in appropriate defences and reducing water use in the summer months.

Equitable Development –

Helping vulnerable and low-income families.

Mitigating the impact of increases in fuel, energy and food prices and the cost of living, and supporting the development of food growing.



Get involved in the Scrutiny process

The City Council is inviting people to get more involved in Council decisions this year – and play a part in Scrutiny.

The Scrutiny Boards keep a check on decisions and how they are made. They also play a part in developing Council policy, reviewing Council services, and they make sure the Council is acting efficiently and effectively.

CLlr Naeem Akhtar, Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, also known as Scruco, said:

“The Scrutiny Boards are designed to increase transparency at the Council and to give people a chance to challenge decisions and policy.

“It is vitally important that any public body is held to account and that people feel they are able to play a part and question those making the decisions when they feel they are wrong.

“Unfortunately, it is also not a very well-known area of the Council. Everyone has heard of committees such as Planning and Licensing, but not many know of the important work of Scrutiny and we want to change that this year and urge people to get involved and have more of a say in the decisions that affect the people of our city.

“Scrutiny works better when people get involved and we want to see a diverse group of people helping us to make sure our decisions are clear and fair.”

The Council has five Scrutiny Boards, which are governed by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee. That committee includes all the Scrutiny Board Chairs as members and has a number of roles, including overseeing the boards’ work and covering issues around the work of the Council’s Leader.

The other boards and their areas are:

- **Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1)**
Chair CLlr Dr Randhir Auluck: internal Council matters, such as how resources are used and areas like Human Resources and IT.
- **Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Board (2)**
Chair CLlr Jayne Innes: covering services provided by the Council and its partners to children and young people, including education and social care, as well as adult, higher and further education and libraries.
- **Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)**
Chair CLlr Rupinder Singh; supporting the economic growth and the future of Coventry through services for business and industry, including jobs and growth, transport links and climate change and sustainability.
- **Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)**
Chair CLlr Linda Bigham: responsible for looking into issues including highways and lighting, and street services, including grounds maintenance, refuse, and street cleansing.
- **Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5)**
Chair CLlr Maya Ali; looking at all the services provided by the Council and the local NHS.

There are many ways that people can get involved with scrutiny in Coventry, including attending Scrutiny Board meetings or suggesting a topic for scrutiny. Details are available on www.coventry.gov.uk/scrutiny
Follow @covscrutiny on Twitter to find out more of Scrutiny’s work.

To suggest a topic for Scrutiny to look at, email scrutiny@coventry.gov.uk or visit www.coventry.gov.uk/suggestscrutinytopic



You need photo ID to vote at the polls in May

For more information about the elections in Coventry and Voter ID please visit www.coventry.gov.uk/elections

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photographic ID when voting at a polling station. So to vote in a polling station at this year’s local elections in Coventry you will need to show an accepted form of photographic ID.

Accepted forms of ID include:

- a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport
- a UK, EEA or Commonwealth driver’s licence
- Identity cards with a PASS Mark
- A biometric immigration document
- A blue badge
- An older person’s bus pass
- A disabled person’s bus pass

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission’s website at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID. If your photographic ID has expired, then it will still be accepted provided it still looks like you.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) online at www.voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk or by completing a paper form.

To apply for the certificate you’ll need to supply a photo. The photo does not need to be

professionally taken and a selfie will do.

If residents need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request a paper application form, they can contact our Electoral Services team by emailing electoral.services@coventry.gov.uk or by calling 024 7683 3034.

People can also get help by visiting our **Customer Service Centre at Broadgate House** where one of our officers will assist them.

If you have a postal vote you do not need photographic ID.



Food help during school holidays

Hundreds of young people in the city could take part in over 70 free activities, with a healthy meal provided, during the Easter holidays.

The successful Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) works with over 35 different organisations to offer children who qualify for a free school meal free sessions in horse-riding, cooking, performing arts, sports, swimming and festive craft workshops - as well as making sure they don't miss out on a hot meal.

Councillor Dr Kindy Sandhu, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills visited a session run by Sky Blues in the Community. She said:

"It's really important that once the school term ends, we are able to continue to support our young people and families, especially with the cost of living crisis affecting so many."

Coventry HAF is a national Department for Education funded programme aimed at enabling children and young people to attend activities and experiences with a meal in the Christmas, Easter and summer school holidays, with signposting to support and advice beyond the holidays.



The next HAF Programme is in the Easter school holidays

Friday 31 March – Sunday 16 April 2023

To check if you qualify and for details check:
www.coventry.gov.uk/haf

Do you know a Good Citizen?

If you know someone who has made Coventry a better place, or who always puts others first why not nominate them for the **Good Citizen Award**.

The scheme honours people who may not get the recognition they

deserve for their efforts to help or improve the community.

We're looking for those people who have made a real difference to other people, their local community or the city.

For details visit www.coventry.gov.uk/goodcitizenaward



City's newest visitor attraction

In 1940, Colonel William F. Wyley left Charterhouse, the former Carthusian monastery on London Road, to be used as a centre of arts and culture for the people of Coventry. Now, 83 years later, Historic Coventry Trust is using the keys handed over on Colonel Wyley's bequest to unlock the doors and welcome everyone in.

After the grit and determination of a group of Coventry residents and seven years of fundraising, restoration and hard work by the Historic Coventry Trust, Charterhouse will be reopening its doors as Coventry's newest visitor attraction – and one of the city's most important historic buildings – on 1 April, just in time for the Easter holidays. This wouldn't have been possible without the support of Coventry City Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, thanks to the National Lottery players.

As part of the wider Charterhouse Heritage Park, Charterhouse offers three floors of immersive storytelling, surrounded by a halo of beautiful green space filled with wildlife, and a brand new café. And not forgetting the three breath-taking medieval and Elizabethan wall paintings that have been delicately conserved and restored for everyone to enjoy. There will also be an exciting programme of events to animate this living heritage site.



Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of March, and Historic Coventry Trust will be announcing the full events programme in their newsletter. To be amongst the first to book your tickets and hear all the latest news, sign up to the newsletter at historiccoventrytrust.org.uk

Schools back Go Parks challenge

Four Coventry schools have been recognised for coming first in their respective categories during the Go Parks: Active Schools Challenge - Commonwealth Games Special.

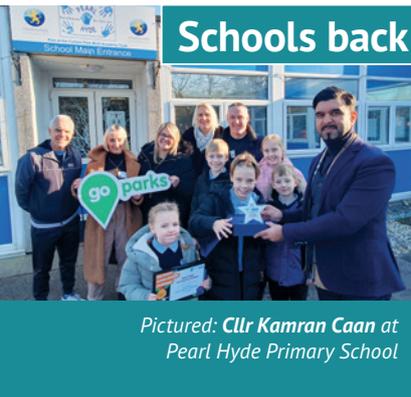
The schools are **Pearl Hyde Primary School, Broad Heath Primary School, Eastern Green Primary School** and **Finham Park School**.

Each school was given a trophy and certificate. The project took place in summer 2022 and encouraged all residents to get active by visiting parks and green spaces all over the city, and scanning the Go Parks QR code to gain points for their chosen schools.

More than 12,000 residents engaged with the Challenge and 78 Coventry schools took part.

Cllr Kamran Caan, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, visited each school to congratulate them.

Take a look at what some of the teachers and parents of those that took part, had to say on YouTube.



Pictured: Cllr Kamran Caan at Pearl Hyde Primary School



First ever Cov Cares Awards launched

Coventry's first Cov Cares Awards are shining a light on city centre businesses that are bringing a sense of belonging and connection to customers.

Residents can nominate their favourite business or employee from ten categories, including 'More Than Just a Shop' and 'Community Champion'. Winners will demonstrate a consistent focus on caring for people and the wider community - like getting to know regular customers, offering a warm welcome or noticing when someone is struggling.

Nominate at www.covcaresawards.co.uk



Help for young people with rising costs

Coventry charity, Positive Youth Foundation (PYF) is running a **Winter Youth Club** to help local young people tackle food poverty in their communities, thanks to funding from Coventry Building Society.

The sessions run between 5.30pm and 7.30pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday until the end of March at Hillfields Young People's Centre.

It provides a warm space and hot meal for young people to take home or distribute in their community.

The Winter Youth Club is for young people aged 13 to 18, and provides a range of activities.

Krishan Singh, Director of Operations at PYF, said:

"We want to empower young people to support others struggling with the increased cost of living. We are thrilled that we have the support of Coventry Building Society."

Young people are encouraged to help deliver food parcels to help others who may not have access to food banks.

5,000 miles a walk in the park for Tony

Thanks to six pairs of footwear and more than 250 hot drinks, a 73-year-old Coventry man has revealed how he walked 5,000 miles in one year to raise money for charity.



Pictured: Tony Cunningham with friends and supporters at the Park Bistro in War Memorial Park

Coventry resident and great grandfather **Tony Cunningham** has helped Warwick-based charity Molly Ollys raise over £11,000 after walking an average of 14 miles each day during 2022.

Tony's official final distance stands at 5,012.5 miles. To help him, The Park Bistro in War Memorial Park, provided hot drinks during the colder months. Tony said:

"The support I have had from people has been incredible and really kept me going at times."



For more on Molly Ollys and The Bistro at War Memorial Park visit www.mollyollys.co.uk and, visit www.warmemorialparkbistro.co.uk

Get help with getting online

The Council's #CovConnects Team has signed up to the National Databank to help distribute data to residents who can't afford to get online across the city.

The databank, which is run by Good Things Foundation, allows qualifying residents to get access to free mobile sim cards.

This support can be accessed at multiple Council locations across the city including all our **Family Hubs**, the **Job Shop**, our **Customer Service Centre** at Broadgate House and at **selected libraries**.



To find out more about the support, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/nationaldatabank or call **Customer Services** on **08085 834333**

Work on new Coventry Cross ongoing

Work is underway to re-site the Coventry Cross near to Holy Trinity Church.

The restoration and installation of the Cross will mean the monument – previously in Cuckoo Lane – will have greater prominence and will be close to its original location.

The Cross will have stained glass windows cut into it in the style of Holy Trinity Church allowing you to see inside the structure.

Inside will be a replica of the Henry VI statue which was part of the original Cross.

The replica has been made by a local company HPL Prototypes. The original, which was built in 1544, is now in the Herbert collection.



Enjoy the Guildhall this Easter

The newly restored St Mary's Guildhall is welcoming families to become intrepid explorers and join in a dragon egg hunt this Easter. Aspiring knights can also learn traditional sword moves and tactical defence at Knight School.



Find out more at stmarysguildhall.co.uk

Dippy's here!

The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum has safely welcomed Dippy the diplodocus to the city.



The 292-bone model of a diplodocus skeleton was carefully deconstructed at the end of the Natural History Museum's installation Dippy Returns, before making its 100-mile journey to Coventry.

The iconic 26-metres long, 4.17 metres high cast has been loaned by the museum and is featured pride of place in the Herbert's covered front court as part of the free installation Dippy in Coventry: The Nation's Favourite Dinosaur.

Visitors to the exhibition can

learn more about Dippy, the Jurassic period and how the natural world we inhabit has changed over time, with talks and activities for all the family to enjoy.

Dippy's three year stay in Coventry comes after a 110-year tenure at the Natural History Museum, beginning in 1905 and more recently an eight-city tour across the UK, where Dippy spent time in Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, Dorchester, Glasgow, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich and Rochdale.

GODIVA FESTIVAL | 30 JUN-2 JUL 2023

The Enemy to headline Friday at Godiva Festival

Returning to the festival for the first time in 15 years, the indie-rock superstars will be lighting up the Main Stage for a special hometown show.



Early Bird tickets for the festival go on sale on 3 March and remain fantastic value. This year, Early Bird ticket prices have been frozen which means that an adult ticket to see The Enemy on the Friday night costs just £6 and a weekend pass is available for as little as £15.

However, this year organisers have announced that there will only be 20,000 Early Bird tickets available, so people are advised to get their tickets early to save money and avoid disappointment.

The band is the first act announced for the beloved festival which will be taking place on 30 June – 2 July.

Tickets will be available to buy from www.godivafestival.com/tickets

As always, the event is set to feature big name artists, a wide range of family attractions and the very best local musical talent that Coventry has to offer. Organisers are hard at work programming these acts and more announcements will be made in the coming weeks.

To keep up to date with all the latest news, head to www.godivafestival.com



We want Coventry to be the best place in the UK for children and young people to grow up.

Child Friendly Cov is a campaign to make Coventry a child and young person friendly city, ensuring that Coventry is a place where children and young people are valued, supported, and enjoy themselves.

Children and young people in Coventry should always:

- be and feel valued
- have opportunities
- be and feel safe
- be and feel healthy

A launch event for the project took place in February at St Mary's Guildhall, with councillors, staff, young people and partner organisations in attendance.

Cllr Patricia Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People at the City Council, said:

"It is so important that our younger citizens feel valued and that they have a voice, not just at home and school, but around the city.

"Child Friendly Cov will be a constant reminder that they should be right at the heart of our work and our plans for the future. We have started working with them, and with our partners in a range of services, to learn what they would want Child Friendly Cov to look like. They even helped us design the logo.

"I am looking forward to developing the programme with them over the coming months and making sure that all children are given the support they need to feel valued and safe, be healthy, and have the opportunities they need in life."

For more info visit www.coventry.gov.uk/childfriendlycov

Have you registered to vote for the May elections?

If people aren't registered to vote come election time on 4 May, they won't be able to vote in the local elections.



Registering to vote is quick and can benefit you in ways beyond just voting. For example, it can help you in any situation where you get a credit check like buying a car, applying for a mortgage or even getting a phone contract. You do not need to register again if you are already registered.

You can register to vote at www.gov.uk/register tovote

The deadline to register to vote is **Tuesday 18 April**.

To apply to vote by post, or or give someone permission to vote on your behalf, download a form at www.coventry.gov.uk/elections

To get in touch with the Elections Team, e-mail electoral.services@coventry.gov.uk or call 024 7683 3034



Thought about a career in social work?

Have you ever considered a career in Adult Social Care?

There are lots of roles in a wide range of services that offer great career opportunities - and the fulfilment of helping others.

This is an exciting time to join the teams at Coventry City Council as we work with partners across the city and the region to put adults, their families and their carers at the heart of everything we do.

Our support and care staff are key in helping people live their best lives, in, or with, care

provision, with social workers, occupational therapists, social care professionals, and others committed to achieving the best outcomes for adults and their carers.

In doing so, we will give you all you need to make a difference, with the help of a supportive staff network, training and development opportunities, and excellent progression opportunities.

Take a look at www.coventry.gov.uk/careers and see how you can start your caring career with the Council.

Digital support for those with autism

A digital support system is available to people over 16 who have either been diagnosed or are self-diagnosed as autistic, with ADHD or are awaiting neurodevelopmental assessment.

Called **Brain in Hand** it combines simple digital tools and practical human support to help people manage anxiety, solve problems and build their skills to grow in independence.

All the tools and support can be accessed via an app 24/7. **Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System (CWICS)** and **Brain in Hand** are working together on the programme.

The licences are allocated on a first come, first served basis. For details email support@braininhand.co.uk or call 01392 247 909.

Keep an eye on your wellbeing
A one-stop self-help resource provides helpful signposting tips for wellbeing support. Visit: www.wellbeing4life.co.uk



Love Your Bump

Trying to give up smoking is difficult, but there is support for pregnant families.

Coventry and Warwickshire's experienced and friendly advisors can help pregnant smokers and their families quit with support and guidance.

Smokers are three times more likely to quit smoking with support from the stop smoking in pregnancy service than on their own.

For details visit happyhealthylives.uk/staying-happy-and-healthy and look under maternity services.