

YOUR COVENTRY

News about what's going on in your city ❤️ summer edition 2025

GODIVA
FESTIVAL
5-7 JULY
2024

- All go for Godiva Festival
- City streets boost
- Funding for caring hub
- National Trust is a first for city



Help with the cost of living

Lots of support is available from many different organisations to help you manage the cost of living pressures.

08085 834 333 coventry.gov.uk/costofliving



JUNE

LEADER'S MESSAGE

Your update from the Leader of Coventry City Council Cllr George Duggins

Welcome to the latest edition of Your Coventry, highlighting the Council's work across our city. From maintaining high standards in our parks so you can enjoy our fabulous green spaces, to supporting residents through our Job Shop and Adult Social Care services, we're committed to serving our community.

In a city of Coventry's size, thousands of people and families living, learning and working here, all rightly expect the Council to deliver excellent services to the highest possible standards.

As a Council, managing our finances responsibly remains our absolute priority. While councils nationwide

face financial challenges, Coventry is performing better than most, maintaining a strong balance sheet through sound financial management. This summer's edition of Your Coventry showcases several examples of this success.

Thanks to additional investment by the Council, we will soon deploy additional teams across Street and Highways Services, boosting our efforts to tackle residents' key concerns, including potholes and fly-tipping. Our much-loved Godiva Festival is about to start, and our unique partnership with E.ON provides enhanced access to energy-saving solutions for projects large and small.

We recently held our first Coventry Job Fest across three local neighbourhoods. The excellent turn-out connected local people with dozens of employers, creating opportunities for employment, volunteering and training.

Our Family Hubs continue to flourish, offering expanded support for local people in their communities, and I'm particularly delighted that the National Trust has taken responsibility for its first city property at the wonderful Charterhouse.

For more information, I encourage you to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, which provides a comprehensive round-up of all our services.

Improving city streets

A fund of £2.2m is being used for a one-off investment to boost services including highways, street cleansing and tackling fly-tipping.

It includes extra money for road and pavement defects and £500k for tackling fly-tipping – two of the issues highlighted by residents during a recent consultation.

However, financial challenges remain as the Council tries to deal with the impact of chronic historical underfunding.

Cllr Richard Brown, Cabinet Member for Finance, said:

"Feedback from the public has asked for more to be done to sort out highways, things like potholes and investing more to tackle fly-

tipping, and that's what we are doing."

The work includes more spending on additional site clearance teams to remove fly-tipped material plus £80k on new surveillance cameras.

More teams will carry out footway and road repairs - including potholes - and spend more time on clearing blocked road gullies.

Around £420k is being used to fund the additional site clearance team for fly-tipping removal and an extra Streetscene Improvement Team.

This will reduce the amount of time that it takes to remove fly-tipping from the streets. It will also help make improvements to cleansing by reducing weeds and clearing channels on all arterial routes and hotspot areas.

It means that more staff are helping to clear problem areas.



More details are outlined on page 4 >>>

Front cover photo: Dylan Parrin

Godiva photo credits: Dave Archer

**GODIVA
FESTIVAL | 4 - 6 JULY 2025**

**Grab Godiva
Festival tickets
from just £15**



EXPLORE THE FUN-FILLED FAMILY FIELD

Enjoy themed zones such as the **Country Zone** with **Shaun the Sheep's Farmathlon**, the **City Zone** with **Bluey meet and greets** and **Bhangra workshops** and the **Beach Zone's** pop-up beach and craft activities. The **Adventure Zone** features a new **trailer cave** to explore, a **high-energy**

sports zone and **family yoga**. **Open Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 July - with Sunday as the dedicated Family Day.** Accessible and fun for all ages!



Why Godiva is great value!

- Lowest priced festival around!
- Bring your own food and snacks
- Free water refill stations
- Short walk from the city centre
- Family Field full of free activities
- Under 5s and carers go free
- Go CV+ prices available



Head to godivafestival.com to get yours now.



**Weekend
tickets from
£49.50**

**Day
tickets from
£15**

Godiva Festival returns from 4-6 July, kicking off summer in the stunning War Memorial Park.

Friday takes a retro turn to the '80s and '90s and will be headlined by Marc Almond, with support from Heather Small and Heaven 17.

Saturday will bring the ultimate summer vibes with sets from DJ Nathan Dawe, Panjabi Hit Squad, hip hop duo Young T & Bugsey and headliners, Clean Bandit.

Ocean Colour Scene is set to close the festival on

Plans are in place to improve and clean up city streets and neighbourhoods. Here are some examples of the programmes that will be getting underway soon.

Cleaning roadside gullies

£150k is being used to tackle 5,500 road gullies. Part of the money will pay for additional resources to tackle those identified as being at least 50 to 100 per cent blocked.

This follows a detailed survey of the city's 50,000 road gullies. Work has already started and will be completed over the summer to help reduce the impact of heavier rainfall that

Coventry is experiencing each autumn and winter. The work is in addition to the new gully cleansing schedule that has been developed using information from the survey. This will

allow the Council to target the gullies that need to be cleaned more regularly, and also reduce the number of visits to those gullies that do not get full.

Witnessed fly-tipping? Please report it

In 2023 and 2024 almost 6,000 fly-tipping incidents were reported in the city and more than 6,176 enforcement actions were taken. Figures for 2024 and 2025 show 6,248 incidents reported and 6,680 enforcement actions.

Elsewhere, our Enforcement Officers have been handing out fines to those people letting the city down.

Here's a round-up of some of the fines they've issued lately.

Recently, a Birmingham resident was passing through Coventry and decided to dump his waste on a local street.

Here's what he dumped.



Our officers managed to track him down and serve him with a £500 fine which he has paid.

Our Streetpride Team found dumped goods on Lowther Street. Our Enforcement Team who investigated the issue, found the culprit and fined them £150.

Also on Upper York Street, black bags were found on the street. Officers found the culprit, interviewed and fined them £300.

People can report fly-tipping anonymously by going to coventry.gov.uk/flytipping or calling 08085 834333.

Bulky waste

Need to dispose of big items? No problem!

Did you know we offer a bulky waste service in the city?

Book your collection for a maximum of 10 items at: coventry.gov.uk/rubbish



Extra teams to fix road defects

Around £700k will be used to pay for extra teams to carry out footway and road repairs, including potholes.

The additional teams will allow the Council to complete more than 100 extra repairs each week, helping to make the city's roads and footways safer.

Where we spend your money

Last year we collected 10 million bins

Go Walks offer free wellbeing support

The city's new Go Walks scheme gives families the chance to explore their local area, improve their health and build stronger communities.

The walks are based around the city's Family Hubs, and link residents with green spaces in their area while showing the

great facilities right on their doorstep.

The nine walks are the result of a new partnership between the Council and The Outdoor Guide.

To learn more about Go Walks, visit The Outdoor Guide's website. To find out more about your local Family Hub offer please visit coventryfamilies.co.uk



Community provides help to single homeless people

St Anne's Catholic Primary School and St Anne's Catholic Church have provided hundreds of toiletries for single homeless people who are staying in recently opened supported temporary accommodation – and tenants are overwhelmed by the gesture.

The toiletries have been given to the 34 single homeless people in new Council-run supported temporary accommodation next door to Chace Avenue Police Station.

The school ran an Easter fundraiser by doing a non-uniform day.

Rachael Batson, Headteacher at St Anne's Catholic Primary School, said:

"We have a really good relationship with staff at the Chace Avenue centre. We're delighted that residents have been able to use the items."

Cllr Naeem Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, said:

"People are very compassionate and it's lovely that the schoolchildren are involved – I think their gesture is wonderful."

The accommodation reduces the need to use hotel or bed and breakfast placements, makes savings, and improves standards of accommodation. The building is staffed 24/7.

For homelessness advice e-mail us at homelessness@coventry.gov.uk or call 024 7683 4025 if someone is homeless on the day



Lottery funding support for Coventry Dementia Hub

Coventry Dementia Partnership Hub has secured more than £280k over the next five years from the National Lottery Fund to help fund a café.



The Hub opened two years ago and the Forget Me Not Café has played an integral part in offering a warm welcome to regulars impacted by Dementia and visitors arriving at the Hub for the first time.

The Holbrook based Hub helps to support around 4,000 people each year. **Cllr Linda Bigham, Cabinet Member for Adult Services at Coventry City Council, said:**

"The Coventry Dementia Partnership Hub is a wonderful venue that I have visited many times. The café is at the heart of the Hub."

"We are all very grateful for the generous support from the National Lottery Fund."

Coventry City Council (CCC) is one of a number of partners, including Carers Trust, Telecare Services Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust, Admiral Nurses and the Police.

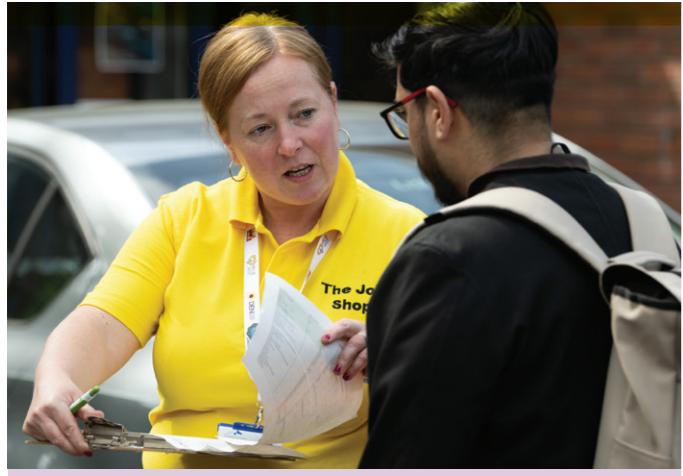
For details visit coventry.gov.uk/cdph



If you have a spare room in your home and time to support an adult with social care needs in Coventry and Warwickshire, we would love to hear from you.

Full training, support and a generous allowance is included.

coventry.gov.uk/sharedlives 024 7678 5339



Community events are just the job

The city's first Coventry Job Fest was held recently and saw 1,800 local people attend, all looking for work, volunteering or training opportunities

Coventry VeryLightRail



What's next for Coventry Very Light Rail

Coventry's Very Light Rail vehicle arrived in the city centre recently and over 2,500 people enjoyed a ride on the 220 metre demonstration track.

Feedback was really positive and the free rides were snapped up in under a week. The rides offered a fantastic opportunity for people to experience the unique and innovative track which was laid in just eight weeks.

Coventry Very Light Rail has the potential to revolutionise how people move around in smaller cities. The lightweight vehicle which

was born out of the innovation and manufacturing skills of the city has the potential to create jobs for local people. All other trams in use across the country are built outside the UK. And with no overhead cables and capacity of 60 passengers, Coventry Very Light Rail could also be autonomous in the future.

The next phase involves constructing an 800 metre route from Coventry Railway Station to Coventry University Technology Park.

Follow Coventry City Council's social media to keep updated!

Energy saving projects deliver savings for schools

Gas boilers are being replaced by air source heat pumps at St Christopher's Primary School and should be finished in September.

In conjunction with the solar panels already installed, the pumps will help the school save thousands of pounds in energy bills every year.

Air source heat pumps are electric, making them a much lower carbon source of heat, with carbon intensity continuing to decrease over time as the National Grid continues its journey towards power from renewables.

The pipes that distribute hot water around the school and radiators will also be replaced so that the school's heating systems will be effective and reliable for many years to come.

The Strategic Energy Partnership between Coventry City Council and E.ON will be delivering all of the work. It is developing a wider programme in more local schools. The greenhouse gas emissions

avoided will be over 100 tonnes of CO₂ per year. This is the equivalent of planting 4,000 trees every year. Ravensdale Primary School is also benefiting from similar work.

Grant funding is being provided through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

Where we spend your money

The Council provides vital support and care to around 4,000 adults per week

New for 2025, Coventry Job Fest connected local talent with leading employers by taking opportunities directly out to the community.

The new job initiative visited three wards with the highest youth unemployment figures - St Michael's, Foleshill and Longford.

Job Shop customer, Cher, who attended all three events, said:

"I feel a completely different person having worked with the team at the Job Shop and attending a workshop session prior to Job Fest.

Visit the Council's YouTube for a closer look at the event. Or for ongoing guidance and support, visit the Job Shop in West Orchards, Coventry City Centre.

"The staff are so helpful. Whatever you feel you're lacking, there'll be a course for you to be your best self."

All those who attended the three different Job Fest events benefited from CV and interview workshops, fast-tracked applications and on-the-day recruitment.

There were over 70 employers and training providers at Job Fest, with 600+ opportunities available at each event. More community-focused events will be planned going forward.

Contact details for your local councillor, wherever you live in the city

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Boost for 14th century Charterhouse

Earlier this year, Historic Coventry Trust, which owns the Charterhouse and oversaw its multi-million-pound renovation, entered into a partnership with the National Trust where the day-to-day operations of the site, and visitors' experience will now be managed by the National Trust.

The former 14th century monastery will be open **Wednesdays to Sundays**, with its **gardens and grounds open from 9am-5pm** and the **house** from **10am-4pm**. Visitors will be able to explore medieval architecture and rare wall paintings, enjoy the walled gardens and orchard, and take part in a calendar of events and activities.

A 60-seat **café** has also opened **Wednesdays to Sundays, 8am until 5pm**. A dedicated team of staff and more than 160 volunteers have been recruited to help share one of the Midlands' most significant heritage sites with the public.

Visit nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/warwickshire/coventry-charterhouse



The Grade I listed former Carthusian monastery – one of only nine ever built in England – is the National Trust's first property in Coventry. The Trust will work closely with local organisations as part of its ambition to bring history and heritage to more people in urban areas.



As well as the care and support fostering can offer to children and young people, it can help them into adulthood through Lifelong Links – bonds formed in care that continue as they set out in life.

That support is invaluable for people like Shona, who said: *"Mandy's family have welcomed me in as their own and shown me so much care, love and compassion. They've taken me on holidays, had me over for*

Christmas and shown me what it means to experience everyday family things."

See how fostering could change a young person's life – and your own – visit coventry.gov.uk/fostering.

New Lord Mayor has a community focus

Cllr Rachel Lancaster has been named Lord Mayor of the City of Coventry.

She attended John Shelton and President Kennedy schools, and is the second woman in her family to serve as a councillor in Coventry. Cllr Lancaster represents Holbrook Ward.

The Lord Mayor has chosen the Heart of England Community Foundation as her charity.

She said: "We have created

a remarkable city by working together as a community, and I want to recognise the people and organisations that make it possible."

Her children, daughter Meridith and son Lawrie, will share the role of Lord Mayor's Consort.



**ARMED FORCES DAY
28 JUNE 2025**

The city will mark the day at 10.30am with a service at Holy Trinity Church and a parade in Broadgate at 11.30am.

Free summer family fun

Bands in the Park

Join us in a park near you and enjoy live music this summer!

2pm - 3.30pm Sundays
Visit coventry.gov.uk/bandsinparks for details.

Crafts at the Cathedral

Every Thursday, Coventry Cathedral will host FREE, family activities exploring feelings through craft, play and community. Visit

coventrycathedral.org.uk

Sports Fest

The city's FREE, six-day sports event will be back in Broadgate later this summer.

On every day from **Tuesday 12 August - Sunday 17 August, 10am-4pm**.