



## Welcome to Planet Woking!

You're receiving this as you're signed up to receive updates from Woking Borough Council regarding biodiversity, climate and other green news. Work to deliver on climate change and natural environment ambitions, set out in [Woking 2050](#) and [Natural Woking](#) continues. Planet Woking provides a one stop shop for all things relating to climate change, sustainability and biodiversity in the Borough.

On 24 September 2020, we launched the [Planet Woking website](#) that has a range of case studies and articles designed to engage local people and organisations to do what they can to make a positive difference. There's also information and activities to inspire your younger family members on the site's [Little Planet Woking](#) pages. Please do watch the video available on the homepage which highlights the importance of safeguarding our environment and features some of the great work being done locally, including Charlotte - local litter hero at just 6 years old.

Over the next few months we will be streaming a programme of virtual talks based around a series of themes aimed at residents, schools and businesses. The events will also offer residents the opportunity to feedback their ideas for what more the Council could be doing.

Join us for our first event next week! On **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October** at 6.30pm we'll be hosting an event focusing on the theme 'Home' and how making changes to our everyday activities can contribute to a sustainable Borough. Energy and water use; the amount of waste we produce; and how we shop all have an impact. The session will start with inspiring talks from Jen Gale, author of *The Sustainable(ish) Living Guide*, and Wendy Wakenshaw, Woking resident and founder of the *Imperfect Footprints* website. We'll follow this with an opportunity for discussion and gathering of ideas from attendees for possible future projects to be brought forward for consideration by the Council. Book your place [here](#).

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## Green Jump Surrey

Action Surrey has announced that £6.2 million has been made available to help 600 Surrey households save money on their energy bills.

The funding for “Green Jump Surrey” has been awarded through central Government to local authorities across the county and will provide eligible households up to £10,000 to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

In addition to the Government’s grant, Surrey County Council is contributing £750,000 to the “Green Jump Surrey” project as top-up funding to cover the full cost of works.

Eligible owner-occupied households can use the funding to install energy efficiency improvements including loft, solid wall, cavity wall and park home insulation, to keep their home warm. Air source heat pumps and solar hot water systems can also be funded in addition to insulation works, to further help save on energy bills and reduce carbon emission.

Private and social housing landlords can receive up to £5,000 to cover two-thirds the cost of installing solid wall insulation.

Residents living in hard-to-heat homes and are either in receipt of a means tested benefit or have a total gross annual household income of less than £30,000 could be eligible for funding.

As funding is time-limited, Action Surrey is urging residents to contact them as soon as possible on **0800 783 2503** or visit [www.actionsurrey.org/enquiries](http://www.actionsurrey.org/enquiries) to check their eligibility for support.

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## New energy centre under construction

Poole Road in Woking Town Centre is the location for a new low carbon energy centre. ThamesWey, together with construction partner Galliford Try, broke ground on the £20m combined heat and power energy centre in January 2020.

Due to be completed in early 2021, the energy centre will be part of the vital infrastructure enabling Woking to grow sustainably. Once complete, the first customers to receive the generated low-carbon heat and power will be the new Hilton hotel, shops and over 400 apartments which form the new Victoria Square development.

With the capacity to supply other future developments in Woking town centre, the new energy centre has been designed to generate enough heat and power to supply the equivalent of over 2,500 homes for the next 50 years. With Woking's 2030 carbon neutral future in mind, the energy centre has been designed to incorporate green energy technologies to further reduce Woking Town Centre's dependence on fossil fuels and is a vital part of the new infrastructure enabling Woking to grow sustainably.

Check out the time-lapse video [here](#) showing Woking's new low-carbon energy centre on Poole Road coming out of the ground.

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## New pedestrian and cycle footbridge improves connectivity across the Basingstoke Canal

Great news for local pedestrians and cyclists! A new pedestrian and cycle footbridge spanning the Basingstoke Canal, Chobham Road Bridge, is now open and provides an uninterrupted towpath across the canal for users.

The new bridge unites the two sides of the canal towpath without the need for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the busy road.

The bridge design follows the characteristics of the surrounding area, featuring gabion walls, a non-slip surface, steel handrails with built-in bat friendly lighting and associated

landscaping.

The project began in November 2019, commencing with a fish rescue and dewatering of the canal between Skew Bridge (highway bridge spanning canal at Lockfield Drive) and Monument Road Bridge.

The works were part of the wider town centre improvement project which is part funded by Enterprise M3.

For more information, please visit [www.woking.gov.uk/footbridge](http://www.woking.gov.uk/footbridge)

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## **Sutton Green Flood Alleviation Scheme protects homes**

A flood alleviation scheme designed to reduce the risk of flooding in the Sutton Green area has succeeded in protecting homes and properties during recent heavy rains.

In December 2013, a number of properties were flooded when the watercourses in the area could not cope with the long periods of heavy rainfall. The Sutton Green Flood Alleviation Scheme involved increasing the storage capacity of the existing local ditch network. The project is split into two phases. The first phase has been completed and has created additional capacity along Sutton Green Road to hold water in a safe area away from the village. The second phase of works, scheduled to commence shortly, will re-establish a small section of ditch along New Lane. Once construction of both phases is complete they will be seeded and planted.