

NOTICE
OF
MEETING

MAIDENHEAD TOWN FORUM

will meet on

THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH, 2022

At 6.30 pm

by

VIRTUAL MEETING - ONLINE ACCESS AND ON [RBWM YOUTUBE](#)

TO: MEMBERS OF THE MAIDENHEAD TOWN FORUM

COUNCILLORS DAVID COPPINGER (CHAIRMAN), HELEN TAYLOR (VICE-CHAIRMAN), GURPREET BHANGRA, ROSS MCWILLIAMS, CLIVE BASKERVILLE, CHRIS TARGOWSKI, JOHN BALDWIN, GEOFF HILL, GREG JONES, GERRY CLARK AND GURCH SINGH

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

COUNCILLORS MAUREEN HUNT, CATHERINE DEL CAMPO, NEIL KNOWLES, STUART CARROLL, DONNA STIMSON, PHIL HASELER, JOSHUA REYNOLDS, SIMON BOND, ANDREW JOHNSON, JON DAVEY AND DAVID CANNON

Karen Shepherd – Head of Governance - Issued: 9th March 2022

Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend Part I of this meeting. The agenda is available on the Council's web site at www.rbwm.gov.uk or contact the Panel Administrator **Mark Beeley** 01628 796345 / mark.beeley@rbwm.gov.uk

Recording of Meetings – In line with the council's commitment to transparency the Part I (public) section of the virtual meeting will be streamed live and recorded via Zoom. By participating in the meeting by audio and/or video, you are giving consent to being recorded and acknowledge that the recording will be in the public domain. If you have any questions regarding the council's policy, please speak to Democratic Services or Legal representative at the meeting.

AGENDA

PART I

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>SUBJECT</u> | <u>PAGE NO</u> |
|-------------|--|--------------------|
| 1. | <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive any apologies for absence. | - |
| 2. | <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive any declarations of interest. | 3 - 4 |
| 3. | <u>MINUTES</u> To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11 th January 2022. | 5 - 10 |
| 4. | <u>UPDATE ON THE HUB/LANDING SITE</u> To receive an update on the progress of the site from Victoria Manston. | Verbal Report |
| 5. | <u>MAIDENHEAD TOWN MANAGER UPDATE</u> To receive an update from Robyn Bunyan. | 11 - 16 |
| 6. | <u>DISCOUNT PARKING SCHEME FOR RESIDENTS</u> To hear from Neil Walter on the details of the discount parking scheme for residents in the borough. | Verbal Report |
| 7. | <u>ITEM SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE FORUMS</u> The Forum is invited to make suggestions for future meetings. | - |
| 8. | <u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u> All future meetings to be held on the following dates (at 6.30pm): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 12th May 2022• Monday 11th July 2022• Monday 5th September 2022• Thursday 10th November 2022• Thursday 12th January 2022• Thursday 16th March 2023 | - |

MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

Disclosure at Meetings

If a Member has not disclosed an interest in their Register of Interests, they **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as they are aware that they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or Other Registerable Interest. If a Member has already disclosed the interest in their Register of Interests they are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed.

Any Member with concerns about the nature of their interest should consult the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

Non-participation in case of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your DPIs (summary below, further details set out in Table 1 of the Members' Code of Conduct) you must disclose the interest, **not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room** unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted by the Monitoring Officer in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a DPI.

Where you have a DPI on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet Member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

DPIs (relating to the Member or their partner) include:

- *Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.*
- *Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses*
- *Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.*
- *Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the council.*
- *Any licence to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.*
- *Any tenancy where the landlord is the council, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest in the securities of.*
- *Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:*
 - a) *that body has a place of business or land in the area of the council, and*
 - b) *either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or (ii) the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.*

Any Member who is unsure if their interest falls within any of the above legal definitions should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Other Registerable Interests (summary below and as set out in Table 2 of the Members Code of Conduct), you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other Registerable Interests (relating to the Member or their partner):

You have an interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority*
- b) any body*
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature*
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or*

one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

Disclosure of Non- Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a DPI) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer) you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –

- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
- b. a financial interest or well-being of a friend, relative, close associate; or
- c. a body included in those you need to disclose under DPIs as set out in Table 1 of the Members' code of Conduct

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied.

Where a matter **affects** your financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other declarations

Members may wish to declare at the beginning of the meeting any other information they feel should be in the public domain in relation to an item on the agenda; such Member statements will be included in the minutes for transparency.

Agenda Item 3

MAIDENHEAD TOWN FORUM

TUESDAY, 11 JANUARY 2022

PRESENT: Councillors David Coppinger (Chairman), Helen Taylor (Vice-Chairman), Gurpreet Bhangra, Ross McWilliams, Clive Baskerville, Chris Targowski, John Baldwin, Greg Jones, Gerry Clark and Gurch Singh

Also in attendance: Councillor Catherine del Campo, Councillor Donna Stimson, Councillor Phil Haseler and Councillor Mandy Brar

Officers: Shilpa Manek and Adrien Waite

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

MINUTES

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2021 were a true and accurate record.

PRESENTATION ON THE PLANNING PROCESS

Adrien Waite, Head of Planning, gave a presentation to the Forum. The presentation was aimed at anyone wanting to understand the planning process. The presentation would cover what planning was, planning policy, development management, conservation and trees and enforcement.

The presentation was attached.

Councillor Baldwin commented that one of the emphasis was to encourage residents to get involved, Councillor Baldwin asked why the council had refused a neighbourhood plan for Maidenhead. Many residents were upset with the decision as one of the reasons was that the area was too big, which was subjective. How was too big measured and what was it compared to, for it to be too big?

The Head of Planning commented that the original application was submitted over two years ago and this was the only application that had been received for a designation of an area for a neighbourhood plan for Maidenhead and for the approval of the Forum. The formal application was refused for the area but also the forum did not meet the relevant tests. The detail of the decision was a published decision of the local authority. The more recent story that had been reported had not been a formal decision and had not followed a formal application for a neighbourhood forum but had been advice provided by an officer that had been to do with the size of the area that had been proposed for designation. It was felt that the area was too large. Neighbourhood Forum designations were supposed to represent what logical neighbourhood areas, which were of a certain size, not always of a certain size and the proposed area for the Maidenhead neighbourhood forum, which was a very large area.

Councillor Baldwin asked about the cost of the borough local plan and the last estimate had been that it had exceeded £2 million. Residents questioned if the decisions and the processes

were fair and they didn't seem to be fair. Residents were able to make representation at planning meetings and the Panel would be open minded and would make deliberations based on the evidence before them. Many residents believed that the decisions made were predetermined before the meetings took place. These were of a serious nature and had prompted a memo from the chief executive. Councillor Baldwin asked the Head of Planning if he could give residents the reassurances that RBWM had a genuine quasi-judicial and magisterial planning process and not one that was dominated by an existing administration policy.

The Head of Planning was aware of the letter from the chief executive which was seeking to remind members of the way that planning matters should be considered and the key thing that was being highlighted was the importance of making decisions that were fair and having regard to the development plan and matters not getting overly involved in local matters that may not be related to planning. In terms of the fairness of the planning system, it was a system where residents and other stakeholders would always have different views on the system based on their own experiences and based on some extent the outcomes they desire and whether those were outcomes that they got in terms of the way that local planning authority processed things, the Head of Planning reassured all that all comments were considered by planning professionals with only the boroughs interests in mind. The Head of Planning explained the process of the development management meetings and the training that was undertaken by all Panel Members.

Councillor Taylor asked how residents were informed about planning applications near them, especially if they were not online. What should residents look out for? The Head of Planning informed all that the precise consultation requirements differed for different types of applications. For the majority of planning applications, the borough would notify residents by writing to the owners or occupiers of the adjacent properties, in some circumstances, a site notice would be posted, if officers felt it was difficult to identify the interested parties or if the site was within a conservation area or affecting a listed building. On larger applications and heritage assets such as listed buildings or conservation areas, there would be a statutory notice published in a local newspaper advising residents of the application and how to comment on the application. There was also the planning register online that people could access, and alerts could be set up here too.

Councillor Greg Jones asked a question from a resident that when artist impressions were shown on an application, it showed plenty of trees and benches and then when the project was complete, these were not there. How accurate did the artist impressions need to be? And what level of importance was given to planting and vegetation around the new developments? The Head of Planning explained that the artists impressions should be giving a good idea of what the building would look like but these were not the actual drawings so there was always possibility of a degree of difference. The diagrams were there to give an idea only. The authority did put quite a degree of importance on making sure there was adequate landscaping and that developments were well thought out in terms of public realm. It was worth noting that sometimes, it would take time for a development to come to fruition and look like the artist had presented. Councillor Jones asked about green roofs and how these could be encouraged. Adrien Waite commented that green roofs were definitely encouraged as the sustainability and climate change strategy went forward. Many of the new developments did have these in the plans but they were not seen from ground level.

Resident, Derek Wilson, commented that with respect to the neighbourhood plan, there had been changes to the government legislation concerning these and it had been suggested that the area needed to be a smaller designated area to previously suggested. Derek Wilson also informed all that it was very important that the borough local plan be approved soon as currently, it was still the adopted plan of 1999 with the amendment of 2003. It was important for all to know that if decisions went against RBWM and were subject to appeal, RBWM were vulnerable at the appeal process even though the local plan was progressing through the inspection. Derek Wilson confirmed that the decisions were fair and were done in

a proper quasi-judicial manner. Derek Wilson asked at what stage was the borough local plan. The Head of Planning commented that it was at a fact-finding stage.

Councillor McWilliams asked about the importance that residents placed on design and particularly elevation within the town centre, Councillor McWilliams asked about a design code for Maidenhead town centre and whether this was considered. The Head of Planning commented that design was a very important part of the planning process, which was emphasized through many of the policies and also through the updated national policy. A lot of Maidenhead town centre was covered by conservation areas and therefore any decisions had to be considered keeping those in mind and consulting with the conservation team in the development management process.

MAIDENHEAD FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE

Robin Jordan, Station Manager at Whitewatch at Maidenhead Fire Station, explained that he had been asked to give a brief explanation of the role in the fire station. Robin Jordan would give examples of what they did in the community. One of the strategic commitments was to provide education and advice on how they prevented fires and other emergencies. Community groups within the town were visited and a safe and well visit would be conducted. This affected everyone and was based around good housekeeping and to ensure that all had a smoke detector and carried out routine tasks and not take them for granted. So, the first thing checked was that there was a working smoke alarm and that it was in the correct position. Advice would be given on the main areas of the house, these included:

Kitchen

- Putting shopping on a hob;
- Putting things in the microwave that shouldn't be put in there;
- Toasters;
- Fat on trays;
- Keeping loose clothing out of the way;
- Tie hair up;
- Advice- if you don't like the look of a fire, switch off power source and shut the door and contact Fire Service.
- Regularly service boilers to prevent carbon monoxide build up;
- To have a carbon monoxide detector in the house, near to a boiler;

Living Room

- Keep chimneys clean and have a carbon monoxide detector in living room;
- Electrical sockets, try to use long extension cables and wires unwind properly;
- Candles, distinguish when leaving the room and have fire guards around fire places.

Bedroom

- Unravel electric blanket wires and switch off before sleeping.

The location of the smoke detectors was then checked, ideally these should be in the hallways at the bottom and top of stairs. The routine that should be followed before bedtime, should be turn off telly and shut the door after them. It's good to know where the keys are. All doors should be shut as this would give thirty minute of fire protection. It was good to have a phone and a torch upstairs and clear clutter from the main exit routes.

Councillor Singh asked if the fire service still carried out fire risk assessments and was advised the fire risk assessments were carried out for businesses by a specific team. Councillor Singh asked if the fire service were still offering the apprentice scheme in Maidenhead and was informed that the first batch of students were currently at training school. This was a new recruitment drive that was government driven and new to the fire service. Councillor Singh continued and asked about how high could the fires be tackled by the Maidenhead team, especially with the buildings getting taller in the town centre. Robin Jordan informed the Forum that they had an aerial ladder platform that reached 40 metres but not specifically in Maidenhead, it was in the county. The ladders on the appliances reached 13.5

meters. In recent times, the procedures had been changed to that ensure that a level two officer of the control team would attend any high-rise building. There was also a built environment team who were working constantly within the centre of the county. They would be working on ensuring that an information plate be put in a simple form outside the high-rise buildings to explain the main points about the building to the officer on arrival in an incident. This would include entry's, exits, where the high rise were, where the dry riser inlets were and where the lifts were located. All of these actions had come out of the Grenfell Tower incident.

Councillor Singh asked with Maidenhead increasing its number of flats and therefore population, was there any thoughts of moving the station premises to a larger premise or having more appliances. Robin Jordan informed the Forum that there were plans to develop the station, adapt the station in case of a larger incident. The station currently consisted of a satellite system that covered Windsor and there were many special appliances as the river was also covered by Maidenhead Station.

Councillor Coppinger asked a question from the chat, as follows, as a fire authority, would Robin Jordan and his team have a say on how tall a building should be. Robin Jordan commented that they did not have a say, it was determined by planning.

The Chairman thanked Robin Jordan for taking the time out to attend and for all their hard work in protecting the borough and for a very useful presentation.

WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD CYCLING ACTION GROUP

Resident, Derek Wilson, chair of Windsor and Maidenhead Cycling Action Group, which also included Ascot and the Sunning's.

Derek Wilson informed the Forum what the Windsor and Maidenhead Cycling Action Group was and what their Mission Statement was and what work they were doing towards it. The Group's Objectives were stated. The Group had met regularly over the last nine months over Zoom and had been working on the RBWM local cycle and cycling and walking infrastructure plan. There had been a number of presentations across the borough to get local feedback on what was required in planning cycle routes and to see if the best possible service was being provided to the residents. The plan was being developed by Tim Golabek and the Project Centre staff.

Another item discussed had been the concern about the PSPO's that had been implemented in the pedestrian areas of Windsor and Maidenhead town centres and requested a potential meeting with Councillor Clark and Tim Golabek to go through a number of areas of concern to see if any of the concerns could be reinvested.

The Group would like to be more informed and have better two-way communication.

The Windsor Cycle Hub had been launched in the last nine months. A Maidenhead Cycle Hub had also recently been launched.

There was still an issue of bicycles been stolen from around the town centre. Derek Wilson informed the Forum that a informative presentation had been given by Jefferey Pick, the Police Community Engagement and Resilience Officer for Thames Valley Police, who had advised on bike marking sessions.

Derek Wilson asked for more information on which active travel measures had been removed.

Councillor Clark commented that the engagement had been great between the Action Group and the borough. Tim Golabek and Chris Joyce had been in constant communication with all matters to cycling and it had been rising up the agenda. The borough had been very supportive in the Action Group and Active Travel. Councillor Clark would be very happy to have a meeting very soon.

Councillor Clark informed the Forum that the tranche one measures where monies were supplied to facilitate social distancing and transport for workers and to try and keep the covid infections risk down. This work was still ongoing.

Councillor Taylor asked about the proposed map of cycle paths around the borough to try and encourage residents off the roads and give residents greater knowledge of where the cycle paths were located, and which paths were suitable for families with young children. Councillor Taylor asked if there had been any progress on this. Derek Wilson informed the Forum that there used to be a cycle path plan provided by the borough but currently there was one within the cycling action plan. This could be looked into further.

Councillor Singh asked to be invited to the meeting with Councillor Clark and Tim Golabek. Residents had been concerned about the PSPO's and the fines they were giving out. Also cycle theft was also a big problem. The issues raised could also be discussed at the meeting.

Robyn Bunyan, Maidenhead Town Manager, had provided a report for the Forum. Councillor McWilliams asked about the new lounge that was opening in the town centre and asked what the opening plans were. Robyn Bunyan informed the Forum that it would be opening the following week and once she had further details on the opening, she would inform all.

There was slow positive progress in the footfall in Maidenhead.

ITEM SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE FORUMS

The following items were suggested by Forum Members:

- Councillor Taylor suggested an update on the celebrations for the Jubilee at the next meeting.
- Councillor G Jones suggested information on parking at Maidenhead train station and no parking for pick up and drop off.
- Councillor Singh suggested a discussion about turning Bridge Street into a food quarter, making it one way and having seating.
- Councillor Baldwin suggested a regular item on the agenda to discuss consultations.

The clerk informed the Forum that every effort was made in informing residents about ongoing consultations through the Members Update, Residents Newsletter and by Democratic Services sending an email to all resident forums and groups.

- Robyn Bunyan suggested a verbal update on events taking place in Maidenhead.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Forum noted the date of the next meeting was Thursday 17 March 2022.

The meeting, which began at 6.30 pm, finished at 8.20 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....

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Report to Maidenhead Town Forum
Tuesday 7 March 2022

Produced by Robyn Bunyan
Maidenhead Town Manager

This update includes information on footfall, vacancy rates, shop openings and closings, national data, regeneration news and all the local events taking place in Maidenhead.

This report covers February 2022.

High Street Footfall

Footfall in the town centre continues to recover as the UK unlocks however footfall is still down compared to pre-pandemic levels. Maidenhead's weekday footfall was heavily reliant on lunchtime office workers which will account for some of the decline as the majority of offices in the town centre are not back to full occupation levels with many companies still encouraging home/ flexible working policies. It is estimated that around 40% of office workers are still working fully or partly remotely.

During **February** monthly footfall report showed that the total number of visitors to Maidenhead was 388,596.

Springboard have provided analysis of these figures to allow for a direct comparison with pre pandemic figures. The table below shows Maidenhead in context with the South East and the UK. This shows that footfall is still nearly -11.7% down year to date compared to pre-pandemic levels. The South East is -18.7% and the UK performance is -25.7%.

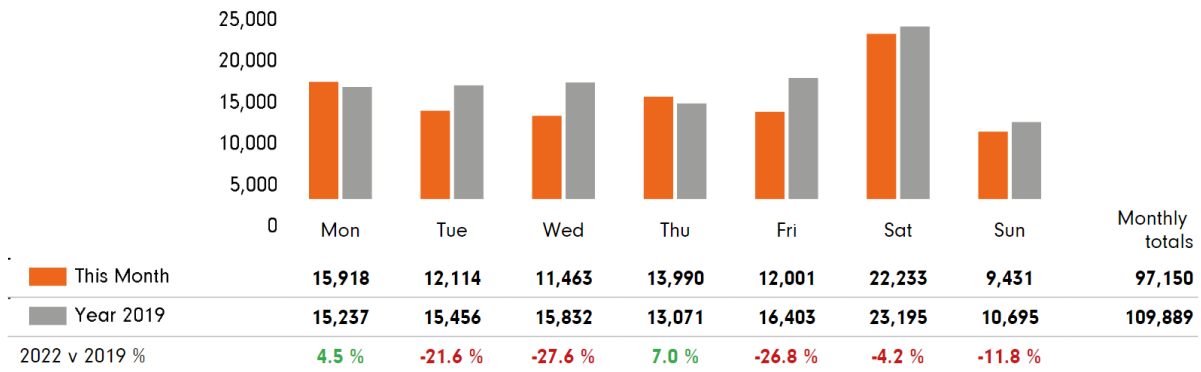
| | Year to date % 2022 Vs 2019 | Year on year % 2022 Vs 2019 |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Maidenhead | -11.7 % | -11.6 % |
| South East | -18.7 % | -19.3 % |
| High Street Index - BDSU(BDSU - Multifunctional) | -25.7 % | -26.0 % |
| UK | -25.7 % | -25.7 % |

Maidenhead is compared to the high street index.

Looking at pre-pandemic average footfall by day (2019) against average footfall by day for February 2022, it is positive to see Monday and Thursdays are showing a positive increase, with Saturdays closely tracking.

Footfall by day

The figures shown below are calculated using weekly averages.



Town Centre Vacancy Rate

Retail vacancy rates in Maidenhead are currently at 18% which is 51 empty units. This is the same as previously reported.

Regeneration update

Work continues on the Shanly Chapel Arches development with hoarding coming down on phase 3 shortly and tenants starting to move into new units – current tenants include F45 Gym and Bardo Lounge.

The Countryside York Road development continues, and landscaping has taken place outside the front of the Town Hall. Tenants including A Hoppy Place and Anytime Fitness are gearing up to open

[Award-winning craft beer venue to open in Maidenhead - Photo 1 of 1 - Maidenhead Advertiser \(maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk\)](#)

Developers, Hub are now on site on the Landing.

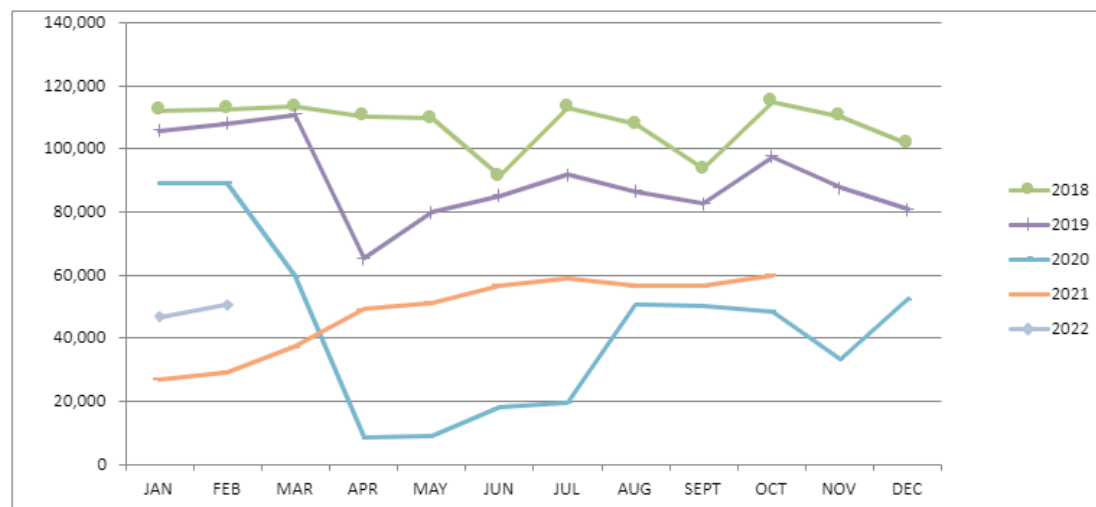
The planning application for the Countryside St Cloud site (former Magnet Leisure Centre) has been submitted and has now been approved.

Car Park Usage in Maidenhead

Car park usage in Maidenhead is increasing however is still significantly down on pre pandemic levels. This can partly be attributed to the lack of office workers in the town centre as the majority of weekday demand was from office workers and commuters.

The Landing car park is now closed as it forms part of the Landing site which has now commenced.

In January total carpark usage was 50,603, an 8% increase on last month.



Social Media engagement

Make Maidenhead is now the primary social media platform following the merge between Enjoy Maidenhead and Make Maidenhead which took place in January.

- Twitter: 923 followers

(Enjoy Maidenhead twitter – 5929 followers. Please note, this page will merge with Make Maidenhead in the coming weeks)

- Facebook page: 6412 followers
- Facebook page: 5501 likes
- Instagram: 1390 followers

In February, the Make Maidenhead Facebook page reached 5585.

February 2022 Highlights

- Anytime Fitness – continuation of free weekend bootcamp sessions taking place in the Amphitheatre
- Confirmation of the installation of Spring hanging baskets in Maidenhead Town Centre to be installed in March 2022. Planting will be installed and maintained by Window Flowers and made available via European Regional Development (ERDF) 'Welcome Back' Funding.
- Highstreet dressed for Lunar New Year with illuminated red hanging lanterns. Lanterns installed by Lamps and Tubes and made available via European Regional Development (ERDF) 'Welcome Back' Funding.

- Confirmation of a Maidenhead Town Centre deep clean to take place in March. This additional street clean has been made available via European Regional Development (ERDF) 'Welcome Back' Funding.
- The Lunar New Year celebrations on the high street presented by Eagle Claw Kung Fu School. The event was attended by approximately 1500 people.

['Good vibes' in Maidenhead for Chinese New Year celebrations - Maidenhead Advertiser \(maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk\)](http://maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk)

- Lunar New Year craft activity hosted by Explore Learning at the Nicholsons Centre received good press coverage:

Getting crafty with Chinese dragons

Town Centre: New year celebrations continue with puppet workshop

By Shay Botmanley
shay@shaymedia.co.uk
@ShayB_M

Children on half term used their time off to create arts and crafts in the Nicholsons Centre on Thursday.

Inspired by Chinese New Year, children were free to attend and create colourful Chinese dragon puppets.

Using pens, pencils and rulers, the children used their imagination to conjure creative designs for the head and the tail of the dragon.

Once the designs had been completed, the head and tail were attached to a folding long piece of paper which could be stretched out.

Using a handle on each side, the dragon could be extended and presented proudly by their creators.

The event was organised by Make Maidenhead, and was run by Explore Learning Maidenhead alongside the Nicholsons Centre itself from 11am until 3pm.

For more information on upcoming events in and around the town centre, search for #MakeMaidenhead on Instagram or MakeMaidenhead on Facebook to stay in touch.

Simran Griffiths, seven, shows off her creation. Ref:134247-5

Eva Kisby, seven. Ref:134247-2

Youngsters get creative. Ref:134247-1

Upcoming events

- Make Maidenhead Charity Pancake Race – Thursday 1 March
- Maidenhead Big Read – Tuesday 1 – Thursday 10 March
- Maidenhead Vegan Fiesta Spring Event – Sunday 20 March
- Maidenhead Drama Guild – Stags and Hens – Wednesday 30 March onwards
- Maidenhead Bridge Rotary Easter Fun Day – Saturday 16 April
- Craft Coop High Street Craft Markets – monthly from April

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee update

Headline of events including civic, and community led can be found here:

[Upcoming Events – Windsor Platinum Jubilee 2022](#)

Events include the Jubilee Beacon Lighting and Fireworks, Picnic in the Park (the Long Walk) and Windsor's Big Lunch.

Many of the large scale 'flagship' events are taking place in and around Windsor across the Jubilee weekend.

The following events are planned to take place in Maidenhead:

- Borough wide Jubilee bunting
 - made available via European Regional Development (ERDF) 'Welcome Back' Funding
- Themed hanging baskets
 - Requires funding and a sponsorship campaign will follow in the coming weeks
- Jubilee trail
 - A business engagement project where visitors to the town are encouraged to find all of the jubilee related items hiding in shop windows
- Craft activities for children and young people
 - Following our successful craft workshops in the Nicholsons Shopping Centre we will run a free activity for families to enjoy
- Business shop window competition
 - To encourage local businesses to get into the spirit of the event, Make Maidenhead will run a window dressing competition
 - We would like to find a sponsor for a prize for the best window voted via our social media channels
- People encouraged to apply for street parties
 - The online application portal is now open: [The Queen's Platinum Jubilee | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead \(rbwm.gov.uk\)](https://www.rbwm.gov.uk)

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