

Spring 2021 – Issue 10

# Derbyshire now



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Supporting Derbyshire through the pandemic

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# Support for you

**If you've been affected by the pandemic and need some help and advice, check out the county council's website where you'll find lots of useful information and support.**

The pandemic is affecting us all in so many ways – from our health and wellbeing to jobs and finances. But there's help at hand if you need it.

Boosted by the support of more than a thousand volunteers, Derbyshire County Council has been working alongside local organisations and charities to support Derbyshire residents through these difficult times.

This includes running the county's Community Response Unit for those who are vulnerable and don't have any friends or family locally to support them.

The council has also given additional funding to Derbyshire's food banks and community cafés as well as distributing more than £2m from the Government's Covid-19 winter grant scheme designed to support those most in need with the cost of food, energy and other essentials.

A variety of help and support is available through the county council's website. For:

- Advice on money, utilities, benefits, food and employment  
[derbyshire.gov.uk/covidsupport](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/covidsupport)
- Support for employers, businesses and charities, including Kickstart, grants and more  
[derbyshire.gov.uk/helpforbusinesses](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/helpforbusinesses)
- Help and advice with mental health including support in a crisis, emotional health and wellbeing and young people's mental health  
[derbyshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth)
- Support if you are caring for a loved one  
[derbyshire.gov.uk/supportforcareers](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/supportforcareers)
- Community Response Unit if you don't have friends or family to call on for support  
[derbyshire.gov.uk/gethelp](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/gethelp)

## Get in touch

[derbyshire.gov.uk](https://derbyshire.gov.uk)

Write to us at County Hall,  
Matlock, Derbyshire  
DE4 3AG or:

Email [contact\\_centre@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:contact_centre@derbyshire.gov.uk)

 [@derbyshirecc](https://twitter.com/derbyshirecc)

 [facebook.com/derbyshirecc](https://facebook.com/derbyshirecc)

Call Derbyshire on  
**01629 533190**

Text us on **86555**

**Derbyshire Now** costs 11p per copy to produce and deliver to Derbyshire's 330,000 households. We welcome your feedback and if you have any compliments or complaints about the magazine, please get in touch using the contact details above.

On request we can provide **Derbyshire Now** in Braille, large print or recorded onto CD.

**All details in Derbyshire Now are correct at time of going to press. For the latest information visit [derbyshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)**

### A career in care



### Road repairs



### Coping with Long Covid



## SIGN UP TO THE **DERBYSHIRE NOW** eNEWSLETTER FOR THE CHANCE TO **WIN £100 OF ShopAppy VOUCHERS**

Join thousands of local residents who receive regular news direct to their inbox. Sign up by **Sunday, 4 April**, and you could win **£100** to spend on goods and services offered by Derbyshire businesses which are part of the ShopAppy.com scheme. At [www.ShopAppy.com](https://www.ShopAppy.com) you can browse, book and buy online from your favourite businesses in Derbyshire towns and villages. It's a great way to support local independent shops. Find out more in the feature on page 7 and at [derbyshire.gov.uk/shopappy](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/shopappy)

To sign up, go to [derbyshire.gov.uk/derbyshirenow](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/derbyshirenow) and click on the Sign Up button.\*

**COMPETITION WINNERS** (from previous edition): Losehill House Hotel, spa break for two: L Fry, Dronfield; Buxton Crescent, overnight stay with breakfast, use of pool & spa for two: S Johnson, Chesterfield.

\* Existing eNewsletter subscribers will be included in the prize draw. We will never release your email address to anyone else. Usual prize draw conditions apply.  
[derbyshire.gov.uk/prizedraws](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/prizedraws)







## Restoration plans for Elvaston

More detailed plans have been revealed to restore Elvaston to its former glory.

Historic buildings will be renovated and areas currently closed to the public reopened while the landscape and other onsite facilities will be upgraded.

The whole site will remain a country park, free at the point of entry, with the introduction of more catering facilities,

shops and activities for people to enjoy.

To divert traffic away from local villages and take visitors into the heart of the estate more quickly, a new entrance will be opened closer to the A6.

The plan is expected to create more than 170 new jobs for local people.

**Find out more at [futureelvaston.co.uk](http://futureelvaston.co.uk)**

## Don't forget to register to vote

Residents wanting to vote in the Derbyshire County Council elections scheduled for Thursday, 6 May, 2021 are being encouraged to check they are registered.

All 64 county council seats will be available as a new council is elected for the first time in four years.

If you're not registered to vote by Monday, 19 April, you will not be able to cast your vote in these local elections.

If you have turned 18 since the last election or moved house you'll need to register. It doesn't happen automatically when you move.

As well as casting your vote at a polling station, you can also vote by post or by proxy but you must apply for these options. You can find out more about registering to vote and different ways to vote by going to **[derbyshire.gov.uk/vote](http://derbyshire.gov.uk/vote)**

Information on the date of the election was correct at the time of going to press.

## Community groups benefit from fund

Community groups are set to benefit after a Derbyshire County Council fund used by councillors to support local organisations and schemes received an extra funding boost.

Every year all 64 Derbyshire county councillors receive £3,860 each to support projects in their area from the authority's Members Community Leadership Scheme.

To help communities during the

pandemic, the authority doubled the amount councillors could give to local groups in their patch, and a further £1,000 each was agreed at the beginning of this year.

More than 660 local community, voluntary and youth groups have already made successful applications through their local councillors this year.

Find out more at **[derbyshire.gov.uk/communityleadershipscheme](http://derbyshire.gov.uk/communityleadershipscheme)**

## Have your say

There are lots of ways you can find out more about the work of the county council, give your views and get involved.

### Council meetings

Council meetings are currently taking place online. You can view the meetings live online by visiting **[derbyshire.gov.uk/meetings](http://derbyshire.gov.uk/meetings)**

Click on the virtual meetings tab on the lefthand side of the page and scroll down to select the meeting you wish to view. You can even re-watch previous meetings.

For more information email **[democratic.services@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@derbyshire.gov.uk)** or call **01629 538327**. The next meetings are:

**11 March** Cabinet 2pm

**24 March** Full Council 2pm

**8 April** Cabinet 2pm

### Council papers

Read the agenda and minutes for all cabinet, full council and cabinet member meetings at **[derbyshire.gov.uk/meetings](http://derbyshire.gov.uk/meetings)**

### Consultations

When the council plans to make changes to services you will have the opportunity to give your opinion. You can find out about consultations at **[derbyshire.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://derbyshire.gov.uk/haveyoursay)**

### Your Councillor

Find out who represents you at **[derbyshire.gov.uk/councillors](http://derbyshire.gov.uk/councillors)** or turn to page 14.

## Live Life Better

Did you know the county council offers a free health and wellbeing service that can

help you stop smoking, manage your weight and get more active?

All these services are now available online including one-to-one sessions with a trained health improvement advisor. There are also friendly Facebook groups and ongoing support.

Find out more at **[livelifebetterderbyshire.org.uk](http://livelifebetterderbyshire.org.uk)** or call **0800 085 2299**.



## School places

The wait is nearly over for parents who have applied for their child's primary, infant or junior school place for September 2021.

Parents who provided an email address are due to receive an email about their child's place on Friday, 16 April, 2021. Or parents can use their user ID to log on to the council's website after 9.30am at [derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions)

The county council will post out letters on Friday, 16 April, to parents who didn't provide an email address.

## FREE courses for adults

To support learners in these difficult times the county council's adult community education service is making all its courses FREE of charge for the summer term.

So it's a great time to learn something new, upskill for a new career or start a new hobby. There's a wide range of online courses and qualifications to choose from, including some free outdoor courses in the High Peak and the Derbyshire Dales, as well as face-to-face learning at some Covid-safe community venues.

Brochures for the summer term are due to go online from Monday, 22 March and bookings can be made from that day. For more information visit [derbyshire.gov.uk/coursesearch](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/coursesearch)



## Free childcare

Do you have a child who is two or almost two?

You could be eligible for up to 15 hours free childcare a week.

Early education and childcare is great for children as they can learn through play, make new friends, try different activities and get a good start in education.

It's quick and easy to apply. Check if you're eligible by visiting [derbyshire.gov.uk/freechildcaretwo](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/freechildcaretwo)



Poet and recording artist Mark Gwynne Jones has created an atmospheric audio journey through the Peak District

## Voices from the Peak

It's the 70th birthday of the Peak District National Park on Saturday, 17 April and as part of the celebrations the county council is supporting a project by Matlock Bath-born poet and recording artist Mark Gwynne Jones.

'Voices from the Peak' is a series of audio artworks that take the listener on an atmospheric journey through

the Peak District in word and sound with local people recounting some of their experiences. An evocative re-telling of the peak's creation story, chapter 3 of these poetic soundscapes, 'Kinder Scout', will be released on the park's 70th birthday.

[peakdistrict.gov.uk/voicesfromthepeak](https://peakdistrict.gov.uk/voicesfromthepeak)

## Five ways to Wellbeing

To help give yourself a boost, there are some simple, everyday things you can do to help improve your mood.

Called the Five Ways to Wellbeing, they are Connect, Get Active, Keep Learning, Give and Take Notice.

You can find lots of tips on how to fit



some of them into your daily routine, whether it's trying a new hobby, picking up the phone to cheer up a friend or just being kinder to yourself.

[derbyshire.gov.uk/wellbeing](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/wellbeing)



## Be a hero, be a foster carer

If you can give hope, help and a home to a child who needs it, Derbyshire County Council would love to hear from you. You don't need any special qualifications, all you need is to be over 21 and have a spare room. The county council provides training, a wide range of benefits and financial support. Find out everything you need to know at [derbyshire.gov.uk/fostering](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/fostering)





Ada Belfield Centre and Belper Library. Photograph courtesy of Glancy Nicholls architects

## Council's newest care home wins design award

The county council's newest care home and library has been recognised for its outstanding design and contribution to the wider community.

Ada Belfield Centre and Belper Library was designed on behalf of the county council by architects Glancy Nicholls to the highest dementia-friendly standards.

Commended by judges in the MacEwen awards that celebrate the contribution of great design to the common good, it was created on the site of the town's former Thornton's

factory in the Derwent Valley Mills Unesco World Heritage Site. The judges described Derbyshire County Council as an 'enlightened' client which had provided 'a decent budget for a building of quality, designed to last using local stone, responding to context and re-using existing building fabric: enshrining the notion that care for the elderly is not something to be shunted away out of sight'.

Three years ago, another of the council's care centres – Meadow View in Darley Dale – also won the same award.



The grant scheme is to encourage local businesses to invest in green energy

## Green grants are go

A new £2m grant scheme is being set up by Derbyshire County Council to help local businesses develop and invest in green energy and carbon reduction schemes.

The Green Entrepreneurs Scheme includes £1.2m set aside for companies looking to establish green, alternative energy or low carbon initiatives in Derbyshire to provide community heat and power schemes.

Grants of up to £20,000 will also be available for new and existing businesses with game-changing proposals in alternative energy, clean fuel and carbon reduction. And a training fund is also being set up to support people to retrain and learn new skills needed to enter the field of alternative energy.

Visit [derbyshire.gov.uk](http://derbyshire.gov.uk) for further details coming soon.

## Protect yourself against cybercrime

Are you staying safe online?

During the pandemic, everyone has been spending more time indoors so it's only natural to be spending more time on your phone, laptop or tablet.

But it's important to stay safe when using the internet. You can take the council's digital MOT to help protect yourself from all aspects of online fraud and cybercrime. Devised with the police it is free and takes just five minutes to complete.

For more information visit [saferderbyshire.gov.uk](http://saferderbyshire.gov.uk)



# COVID-19

## Get the **FACTS** for a safer Derbyshire

Get all the COVID-19 Facts at:  
[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/covidfacts](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/covidfacts)



Turn to page 12 to find out more Covid-19 facts ▶



**Councillor Barry Lewis,  
Leader, Derbyshire  
County Council**

“ The first coronavirus case in Derbyshire was confirmed just over a year ago and since then the virus has had a huge impact on all our lives.

Everyone has had to adapt to a new way of living, following new restrictions to keep our loved ones safe, protect the NHS and care workers.

Derbyshire County Council has adapted quickly too and has been working hard with its partners and communities to ensure continued support and help to those who need it most.

As well as an immediate £1m emergency fund to support households and businesses, the Community Response Unit set up to reach the most vulnerable has to date supported more than 36,000 clinically extremely vulnerable people and delivered 3,000 food parcels.

As well as running the Government's Covid winter grants scheme to support families, £250,000 has been distributed to local foodbanks and a community champions scheme has been set up which helps the efforts to support and reassure local residents.

The council has created a £15m Covid-19 Recovery Scheme to support businesses and save jobs, as well as calling on the Government for more financial support for the county's hard-hit hospitality and tourism industry.

Despite the pandemic, other important work has continued including the opening of the new £10m Ada Belfield Centre in Belper (more on pages 8&9) and the new library on the same site.

More than £11m improvement and maintenance work has been approved for schools, a £40m investment in roads and pavements has been announced (see page 11) and vital services have continued despite restrictions.

The council has also outlined its approach to future working, unveiling its Vision Derbyshire plan, which would see even closer liaison with district and borough council partners.

We are doing all we can to support our residents and businesses, and our enterprising council approach is helping us be as agile, efficient and flexible as we can to do this.

As we head into brighter times, with the roll-out of the Government's vaccination programme well under way, we can look forward to the future. Our Derbyshire Spirit has got us through so far and will help us through again.



## Great team work recognised

Recognition of the council's response to two major incidents came when the authority's Crisis Response Team was given a prestigious national award.

The work the team did during the Toddbrook Reservoir incident at Whaley Bridge in 2019 (pictured) and during severe flooding later that year earned the team the title of Best Council Services Team at the MJ Local Government Achievement Awards 2020.

Supporting local businesses and residents through both incidents required precision planning, logistics and expertise. The Crisis Response Team, led by the county council's emergency planning unit, was assembled, with highways engineers, home care workers, social workers, public health specialists, transport planners, flooding specialists, business advisors, communications officers, contact centre staff and others all working together.



# Shopping safely from home in support of your local shops

There's an innovative new way of shopping rolling out nationally that is helping to support local shops and services during these difficult times. And it's really taking off in Derbyshire.

**ShopAppy.com** is a website which allows shops, cafés, restaurants and other local businesses, services and community organisations to sell online.

Shoppers can browse, book and buy, with local shops and services displayed together in a single town page, allowing customers to buy from their favourite local shops in a single transaction.

It also allows businesses to offer different options including click and collect from a central location, goods delivered to the door or collected from the store.

To support local businesses, Derbyshire County Council and the eight district and borough councils are funding free unlimited use of the website for any



Derbyshire small business until Tuesday, 30 November, 2021. The sooner a business signs up, the longer the period of free membership they get.

For some businesses, that don't have an online presence, the scheme has provided a digital lifeline to help compete with national retailers and stay afloat during the pandemic.

The county council's Cabinet Member for Clean Growth and Regeneration, Councillor Tony King, said: "There are now more than 300 businesses across the county signed up to ShopAppy.com offering our residents a safe and convenient way to shop while helping to strengthen our local towns and villages.

"I'd encourage people to shop this way and for any businesses that are interested to get in touch and get on board."

To find out more visit [derbyshire.gov.uk/shopappy](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/shopappy)



## Old Bolsover Yard

Someone who is incredibly grateful for the support she's been given is Sarah Smith, pictured above with husband Damion, of the Old Bolsover Yard Craft Courtyard and Café, who sells on behalf of local artisans and crafters.

Sarah said: "We're thankful for the support that Bolsover District Council and the county council have given us and it's good to see that all across the county businesses like ours are getting financial support from their local authorities to join ShopAppy.com.

"Bolsover is a town of great character with many independent small businesses. The ShopAppy.com scheme has been brilliant in helping to support us during the pandemic. I hope that shoppers will continue to support their local businesses as high streets look to recover in future months."



## Baumgartners Jewellers

When the second national lockdown hit in November, cutting off a time of peak pre-Christmas sales, things looked bleak for small business Baumgartners Jewellers of Swadlincote. But joining ShopAppy.com offered a real lifeline, providing the shop with sales within a week, explained Dawn Ramsell, the shop's assistant manager and granddaughter of the firm's founder, pictured above with the family firm's tight-knit staff team.

"It's thanks to ShopAppy.com that we are now able to make sales online, something which is a very new and exciting avenue for us and is supplementing our income with sales we wouldn't have had otherwise," said Dawn.

"Swadlincote is my home town and I am proud that ShopAppy.com is helping Swadlincote get recognised online for what they have to offer."

## Derbyshire Adult Community Education steps up with online learning

During the pandemic much of the learning provided by tutors in the county council's adult community education service had to move online to ensure residents could continue to learn.

It wasn't always easy, but there are many stories of success:

### Learning mentor Rachel McEvoy

works with young people aged 14-19, many of whom suffer from anxiety and low mood.



Learning mentor Rachel McEvoy

"Suddenly they were expected to do their classes on computers rather than working face to face with us," she said. "But with the support of our team they managed to keep up their studies and I'm so proud of what they've achieved."

Harry Carlin, 18, from Ripley, thanked Rachel for all her support, saying she'd gone "above and beyond" to keep him learning. Also grateful is Harry's mum Karen, who added: "Thank you for everything you are doing for my son."

### Caroline Greatorex

teaches English Functional Skills and GCSE English to help improve adults' reading and writing skills. She also teaches poetry and creative writing to help support, boost and improve people's mental health.



Tutor Caroline Greatorex

Learner Helen Buick of Belper said she found Caroline's Poetry as Therapy course incredibly helpful during the last few months.

"Caroline is supportive, funny and approachable," she said. "I've had a truly wonderful opportunity that I feel very fortunate to have experienced."

Find out more about courses near you at [derbyshire.gov.uk/adulteducation](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/adulteducation)



# Vision for the future

**As one of the largest providers of local authority residential care in the country, Derbyshire County Council is committed to ensuring older people can lead dignified lives in accommodation that is fit for purpose. It is working with district and borough councils, housing and care providers and developers to meet future housing needs while also providing a much-needed boost to the county's post-Covid economy.**

Major repair and refurbishment is about to get underway at three of the county council's older care homes.

The work will take place at Briar Close House in Borrowash, New Bassett House in Shirebrook and Rowthorne Care Home in Swanwick.

The homes will be rewired, new fire alarms and sprinkler systems installed and heating and lighting systems will be replaced.

Residents' bedrooms will be redecorated, all communal bathrooms will be refurbished and offices will be spruced up. Wifi will be installed in all three homes.

The work costing in the region of £8.5m is due to be completed by July 2022.

Residents will be able to remain living in the homes as work to each wing of the buildings will be phased.

It follows a public consultation on the future of 10 of the county council's

care homes for older people.

Taking in to account the public's views, members of the council's Cabinet agreed to continue with the refurbishment of the three homes, but that none of the seven proposed for closure would do so unless a local care home or alternative provision was available to replace it.

Extensive work has also taken place in the seven homes remaining open to help reduce identified risks while their longer-term future is considered as part of the authority's 'Housing and Accommodation for an Ageing Population: A Strategic Vision for Derbyshire 2035'.

The council is also updating its Market Position Strategy – a public document which helps the authority understand what care and support services are needed across the county.

A copy is available here: [derbyshire.gov.uk/marketshaping](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/marketshaping)



## Work starts on new home

Work on a brand new 40-bed care home for Derbyshire residents has begun. Built on the site of the former Bennerley School, in Cotmanhay, it will replace the county council's Hazelwood Home for Older People which needs significant repairs, including rewiring. Work on the new development is expected to take two years and cost in the region of £13m. Designed to the highest dementia-friendly standards, the two-storey home will feature communal spaces and treatment rooms and all bedrooms will be en-suite. Current Hazelwood residents will be given the option to move in.





Working in care is very rewarding and there's a wide range of jobs on offer

## Starting a career in care

**There's never been a better time to start a career in care at Derbyshire County Council with lots of vacancies at all levels. Someone who worked his way up is Simon Stevens, the council's director of adult care.**

When Simon Stevens left school at 16 with a handful of qualifications, little did he know that becoming a volunteer care worker could lead to one of the top jobs at Derbyshire County Council.



As director of adult social care, Simon helps manage a multi-million-pound budget.

But back in 1985, with little idea of what he wanted to do, it was working as an unpaid volunteer care worker helping support a young man who'd become disabled in an accident that put him on the road to success.

Simon said: "While this was a real baptism of fire for someone who had never been away from home – and some would argue could barely look after himself let alone support someone else – this was the place where I both made a friend for life and got an insight into knowing that social care was the career path that I wanted to follow."

Simon, 53, said it was the hardest work he'd ever done, but stayed an extra three months because it was also the most satisfying and rewarding.

Afterwards, he got a job as a care assistant in a care home for children and in 1996 trained part time to be a social worker, joining Derbyshire County Council from Staffordshire in 2008.

Originally from Lichfield, Simon, who now lives in Burton upon Trent, gained a major promotion with the county council in 2014, becoming assistant director of adult social care. In 2019 he became director of adult social care, deputising for the council's executive director of adult care Helen Jones.

"Social care is one of the most fulfilling careers you can do," said Simon.

"The feeling you get from knowing you have helped someone to be as independent and in control of their lives as they can be, whether that is to stay independently in their own home, to make independent daily life choices or just to get out and about more in their community, is second to none."



Marjorie Johnson cuts the cake to celebrate being in her new home

## No place like home

Residents have been settling in to the county council's newest state-of-the-art care centre.

They moved into Ada Belfield Centre in September following its temporary use as a Nightingale Care Home to support Derbyshire people recuperating from coronavirus.

Part of a larger development that includes a new library for Belper, the 40-bed unit replaces the ageing Ada Belfield care home on Field Lane.

It was a huge team effort to get the new care centre and library ready during the pandemic, from contractors Robertson Construction Group and architects Glancy Nicholls – who have designed it to the highest dementia-friendly standards – to all the council staff supporting the project throughout.

Care home manager Penny Collinge said: "All the long-term residents living here are happy and settled in their new home, however they are missing their loved ones a lot.

"We all can't wait for these strange times to be over so relatives can once more be part of the Ada Belfield family."

Set out over two floors, the brand new unit is built on the former Thornton's factory site on Derwent Street. Ten beds are set aside as community support beds, jointly delivered and funded in partnership with the NHS.

To find out more about working in care, including a link to all social care vacancies with the county council, visit [derbyshire.gov.uk/careersincare](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/careersincare)

# Keeping the vulnerable safe and protecting services

Protecting vital services, keeping vulnerable older people and children safe and ensuring value for money are at the heart of Derbyshire County Council's budgeting plans.

The council set its budget last month and as part of that it agreed to a 2.5% increase in council tax – half the amount permitted by the Government.

The Government gave local authorities with responsibility for adult social care permission to raise council tax by a maximum of 5%, made up of an adult social care precept of 3% (to be spent solely on adult social care) and 2% for general council expenditure.

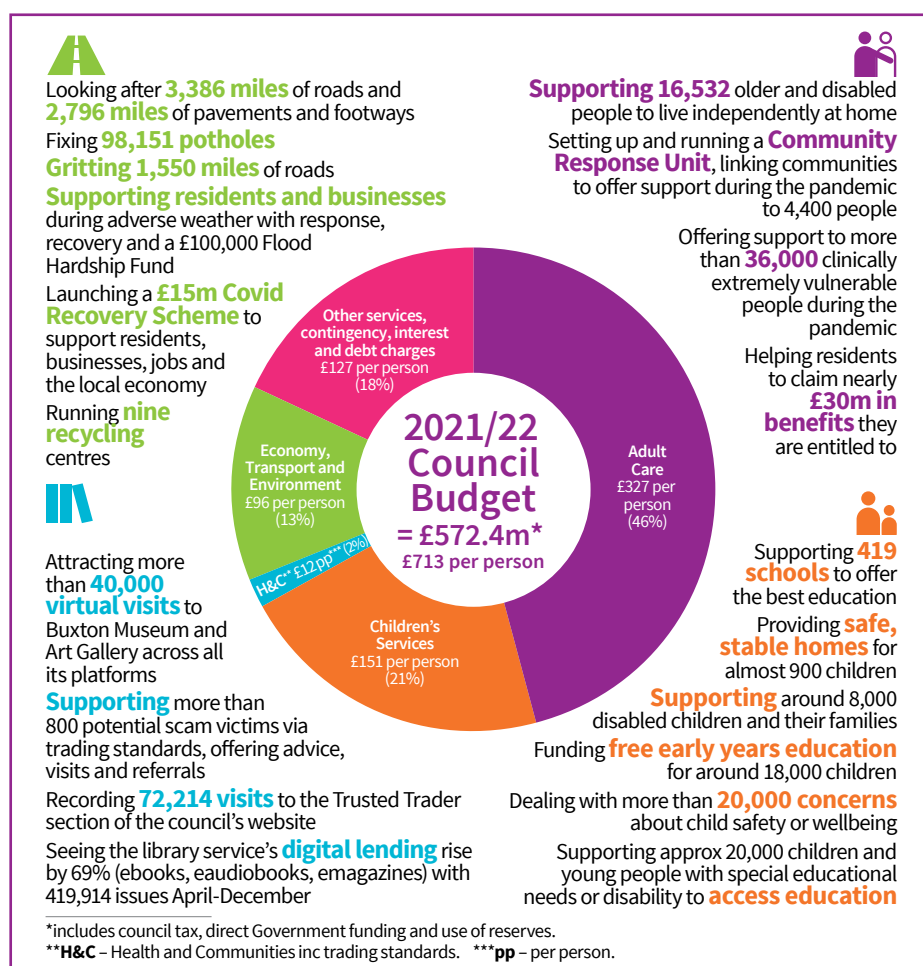
Derbyshire County Council's 2.5% rise is made up of 1% for adult social care (raising just over £3.4m) and 1.5% for general council expenditure.

This means an extra 50p per week for an average band B household and for a band D household the rise will be 65p per week.

More money will be going into supporting services for adults and children, with the adult social care budget rising by £3.5m and an extra £10.4m going to children's services.

There's also additional government support in the shape of the Social Care Grant which adds a further £27.6m for the coming year and the council has set aside a further £10m as a contingency to meet further increases in social care costs.

Although Covid-19 has put pressure on budgets across the council, costs in 2020-21 are currently being met



following announcements of funding during the pandemic including £45m from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in emergency grant funding, an additional forecast £4.8m for lost sales, fees and charges income and £38m of ringfenced Covid-19 specific funding

against the pandemic-related costs.

To ensure the books continue to balance for the years ahead a cross-council savings target of £13.3m has been set for the year ahead and the savings target over the next five years for the council is approximately £72.8m.

## Your views make a difference

If you responded to this year's Your Council Your Voice survey then your views will have helped to shape the council's budget and where it will prioritise spending.

Just over 2,100 people gave their views in the survey, which included several questions relating to the budget.

Top priorities for people were highways services and maintenance, waste and recycling centres and environmental policy including flooding and climate change.

When it comes to ways the council could save money or raise additional revenue, residents favoured working with other councils to deliver shared

services, using other ways of delivering services such as local trusts or other 'not for profit' partnerships and thirdly putting more services online.

As well as the survey, the council also held six virtual focus groups with participants taking part from across the county.



# When bad weather hits



Work is underway to repair the road damaged in heavy rain near Abney in the Hope Valley

## Making Derbyshire's roads more resilient to flooding is one of the key strands of a £40m programme to improve the county's roads and pavements. Derbyshire Now checks in to see how it's going.

As any roadworker will tell you, when it comes to road maintenance you have to make hay while the sun shines. Keeping one eye on the ground and one eye on the weather is all part of the job – which means winter is always a bit of a gamble.

This winter was no different. Storm Christoph brought about significant flooding in January followed by heavy snow and ice, bringing planned maintenance to a halt and causing considerable damage to the county's roads.

Derbyshire County Council's highways team pulled out all the stops to fix potholes and other problems brought about by winter weather and get back on track with their £40m maintenance programme which includes a government-funded trial to help prevent flooding along the A6 between Matlock and Whatstandwell as part of a £5m project.

As well as strengthening retaining walls, sensors will be installed in gullies to alert the team to blockages in the storm drains that need clearing.

Councillor Simon Spencer (pictured), Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Transport and Infrastructure said: "Extreme rainfall is

occurring more frequently and last year we had flooding in 250 places across the county's road network. This new system will make us much better prepared which means our roads will be better placed to cope with heavy rain in the future and if the trial is successful, we'll look to roll it out across the county."



The council is also asking landowners to check for blockages in any culverts and gullies they are responsible for and to make sure they are draining properly to help minimise the risk of further flooding.

Other investment as part of the 18-month maintenance programme includes £11.6m to resurface roads and fix potholes, £1m for road safety schemes such as improving road junctions or laying skid resistant surfacing, £3.3m for vital maintenance to bridges and retaining walls, £2.9m to replace traffic lights nearing the end of their working lives and £1.1m for hundreds of street lights on major roads that will be converted to LEDs, making them more energy efficient and supporting the council's work to tackle climate change.

In addition to the £40m programme, the county council is also spending £12m a year on routine maintenance.

## Repairs underway

Work to repair two roads damaged by severe flooding is well underway as part of the £40m road improvement programme.

Lea Road in Cromford and a road near Abney in the Hope Valley were both damaged by landslips following torrential rain in November 2019.

These complex and highly technical projects, which are both due for completion this summer, have been scheduled to overlap so that specialist kit hired in to do the work can be transferred between sites, helping taxpayers' money stretch further.

Abney is costing an estimated £700,000 and £1.4m has been earmarked to fix Lea Road.

The county council is still counting the cost of flooding which has already occurred this year. Around £20m worth of damage was caused to Derbyshire's roads by the floods in 2019, much of which will be fixed by this time next year.

**REPORT IT:** If you spot a pothole or problem, you can report it at [derbyshire.gov.uk/doitnow](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/doitnow)

# COVID-19

Get the **FACTS** for a safer Derbyshire

Get all the COVID-19 Facts at:  
[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/covidfacts](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/covidfacts)



## Get Covid facts not Covid fiction

**There's lots of misleading information and fake news circulating, leading people to wonder what's true and what's not about the coronavirus pandemic. Derbyshire Now looks at the facts, not the fiction, about Covid-19 and the vaccination designed to help us get back to the lives we love.**

Our efforts to follow government rules and guidelines are making a difference. Together we are reducing the spread of coronavirus in Derbyshire but there's still work to be done. The vaccination is a big step forward in the fight against the illness but everyone needs to carry on with the basics – hands, face, space.

In the meantime, here are the answers to some common questions you might have:

### **Why are you testing people with no symptoms?**

A third of people with Covid-19 have no symptoms, so community testing can help find these people. They can then self-isolate and avoid passing it on to other people.

### **The Covid-19 vaccinations have been developed very quickly – are they safe?**

Covid-19 is a global issue so every country has worked on quickly finding a vaccination. All new vaccinations must pass the same rigorous safety and quality checks as any other vaccination.

**Once I've had the Covid vaccine, am I**

### **protected from the infection?**

It can take up to three weeks after you've been vaccinated for your body to be able to fight the infection. Even when you have been given all of your vaccinations you can still catch the virus, but you shouldn't get as ill. You must ensure you have the two recommended doses of the vaccine to give you longer lasting protection. Even when you've been vaccinated, you must continue to follow the rules to prevent the virus spreading to others by keeping your hands clean, wearing a face covering and avoiding close contact with others.

### **Are there side effects of the Covid-19 vaccinations?**

All vaccines can cause side effects including arm pain, tiredness and general aches. Most of these are mild and short term and not everyone gets them.

To help you separate the facts from fiction, the county council has gathered together trusted, professionally sourced information about some of the main issues you may have questions about.

Read up on all the facts at  
[derbyshire.gov.uk/covidfacts](http://derbyshire.gov.uk/covidfacts)

## Hands • Face • Space

Don't forget, the basics in the fight against coronavirus are still so important. Every action counts and we all have a part to play in helping stop the spread of the virus.

So remember:

- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds
- Wear a face covering in enclosed public spaces unless you're exempt
- And keep at least a 2 metre distance from others
- Wherever possible ensure that rooms are well ventilated.

The vaccine rollout and community testing are reasons to be positive, but we must all keep doing the basics to protect the ones we love.

For more information visit [derbyshire.gov.uk/preventingcoronavirus](http://derbyshire.gov.uk/preventingcoronavirus)





Long Covid sufferer Viv Palfreyman

## Long Covid sufferer talks about year-long ordeal

Retired Amber Valley businesswoman Viv Palfreyman is one of an estimated 150,000 people across the UK suffering the long-term effects of coronavirus.

When she started to feel unwell after a dream holiday to Australia in February 2020, the 67-year-old thought it was the after-effects of the 24-hour flight.

But when she found it difficult to breathe, the asthma sufferer contacted her doctor who said she probably had Covid-19. At that time testing wasn't available.

The illness left Mrs Palfreyman bedridden for two months, unable to wash or dress herself or do simple everyday tasks like shopping without feeling breathless.

A year on, she still can't tackle the basics, walking from the kitchen to her bedroom

makes her breathless, and she's been referred for specialist Long Covid therapy to help her recovery.

"It just went on, and on and on. I couldn't do anything as I was just so incredibly tired and breathless all the time," she explained. "It also affected my mental health. I put on weight as I wasn't moving around and I just felt a complete mess."

Urging people to follow the guidelines to protect the ones they love, Viv said: "It infuriates me that some people are putting our doctors and nurses in this terrible position by ignoring the rules or saying this terrible illness doesn't exist.

"I can assure you it does exist and I wouldn't wish it on anyone."

## Ivy shows how it's done

Getting everyone vaccinated is at the heart of the Government's drive to help the country get back to normal and care home residents were among the first in line.

Happy to be leading the way by getting the vaccine was 99-year-old Ivy Dawson who received her first dose of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccination in January.

Ivy, who lives at the county council's Goyt Valley House in New Mills, survived Covid-19 last May and was very relieved to be vaccinated.

Encouraging others to take up the offer



of the life-saving vaccine, Ivy said: "Being here is the next best thing to being at home and I hope the vaccine means we can soon move forward."

## Testing gives 'peace of mind'

Community testing – checking if people who don't have symptoms are carrying coronavirus – is one of the tools being used to combat the deadly disease in Derbyshire.

By finding out who has the virus, the chain of transmission can be broken which results in fewer people being infected.

The county council is now planning to set up a centre in each district and borough council area across Derbyshire. So far, centres have opened in Buxton, Chesterfield, Clay Cross, Heanor, Shirebrook, South Normanton and Swadlincote. More centres will open shortly.

Across the centres more than 21,000 tests were carried out up to the end of January. Of those tested, 304 people were positive for the virus.

Among those keen to protect themselves and their loved ones was Keith Renshaw, 69, who said: "It's fairly simple and straightforward. It's important to be cautious because you can catch the virus anywhere, so getting a test gives you peace of mind."



Keith Renshaw

Rachel Castledine, 49, added: "It's worth it, because it gives you the relief of knowing that in the immediate future you're safe."



Rachel Castledine

"I work in a school and I'm asthmatic, so I need to know where I stand both for myself and the people I work with."

Find out if community testing is taking place in your area

**[derbyshire.gov.uk/  
communitytesting](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/communitytesting)**

If you have coronavirus symptoms, get a positive Covid test result or are alerted by Test and Trace, you must stay at home and self-isolate. Support is available to help you through isolation **[derbyshire.gov.uk/testandtrace](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/testandtrace)**

# How to contact your

## Amber Valley

### Alport and Derwent



David Taylor  
Conservative  
07969 145114

### Belper



Peter Makin  
Conservative  
07970 741599

### Duffield and Belper South



Chris Short  
Conservative  
07970 741483

### Greater Heanor



Alex Stevenson  
Conservative  
07850 651887

### Heanor Central



Richard Iliffe  
Conservative  
07970 741509

### Horsley



Kevin Buttery  
Conservative  
07969 145479

### Ripley East and Codnor



Ron Ashton  
Conservative  
07970 337196

### Ripley West and Heage



Trevor Ainsworth  
Conservative  
07970 741787

### Alfreton and Somercotes



Steve Marshall-Clarke  
Labour  
07969 144909

### Alfreton and Somercotes



Paul Smith  
Labour  
07713 265670

## Bolsover

### Barlborough and Clowne



Anne Western  
Labour  
07801 215599

### Bolsover North



Duncan McGregor  
Labour  
07969 145785

### Bolsover South



Joan Dixon  
Labour & Co-operative  
07748 920070

### Shirebrook and Pleasley



Christine Dale  
Labour  
07811 995612

### South Normanton and Pinxton



Jim Coyle  
Labour  
07785 287193

### Tibshelf



Clive Moesby  
Labour  
07748 920112

## High Peak

### Buxton North and East



Linda Grooby  
Conservative  
07970 741769

### Buxton West



Tony Kemp  
Conservative  
07969 144785

### Chapel and Hope Valley



Jim Perkins  
Conservative  
07970 741582

### Glossop and Charlesworth



George Wharmby  
Conservative  
07970 741556

### Glossop and Charlesworth



Jean Wharmby  
Conservative  
07970 741717

### Whaley Bridge



Ruth George  
Labour & Co-operative  
07583 046168

### Etherow



Becki Woods  
Labour  
07970 741890

### New Mills



Beth Atkins  
Liberal Democrat  
07748 920192

## Erewash

### Breadsall and West Hallam



Carol Hart  
Conservative  
07748 797957

### Breaston



Robert Parkinson  
Conservative  
07715 012459

### Long Eaton



Alan Griffiths  
Conservative  
07970 337091

### Ilkeston East



Robert Flatley  
Conservative  
07970 741565

### Ilkeston West



Tony King  
Conservative  
07970 741754

### Petersham



Garry Hickton  
Conservative  
07970 741578

### Sawley



Kewal Singh Athwal  
Conservative  
07970 741587

### Sandiacre



Wayne Major  
Conservative  
07780 222575

### Ilkeston South



John Frudd  
Labour  
07969 144686



# county councillor

## North East Derbyshire

### Dronfield East



Alex Dale  
Conservative  
07515 261786

### Dronfield West and Walton



Angelique Foster  
Conservative  
07970 741781

### Wingerworth and Shirland



Barry Lewis  
Conservative  
07920 484207

### Clay Cross North



Brian Wright  
Labour  
07969 145251

### Clay Cross South



Kevin Gillott  
Labour  
07786 702230

### Eckington and Killamarsh



Diane Charles  
Labour  
07969 145625

### Eckington and Killamarsh



Brian Ridgway  
Labour  
07789 947335

### Sutton



Nigel Barker  
Labour  
07970 337211

## Derbyshire Dales

### Ashbourne



Steve Bull  
Conservative  
07890 569611

### Bakewell



Judith Twigg  
Conservative  
07712 490703

### Derwent Valley



Jason Atkin  
Conservative  
07970 337175

### Dovedale



Simon Spencer  
Conservative  
07780 222564

### Wirksworth



Irene Ratcliffe  
Labour  
07969 145007

### Matlock



Sue Burfoot  
Liberal Democrat  
sue.burfoot@derbyshire.gov.uk

## Chesterfield

### Walton and West



John Boulton  
Conservative  
07970 741725

### Birdholme



Dave Allen  
Labour  
07802 780361

### Brimington



Stuart Brittain  
Labour  
07969 145461

### Boythorpe and Brampton South



Ron Mihaly  
Labour  
07969 144929

### Loundsley Green and Newbold



Mick Wall  
Labour  
07970 305679

### St Mary's



Jean Innes  
Labour & Co-operative  
07969 145748

### Spire



Sharon Blank  
Labour  
07748 920152

### Staveley North and Whittington



Barry Bingham  
Liberal Democrat  
01246 453095

### Staveley



Seat currently vacant  
Enquiries to Mick Wall  
07970 305679

## South Derbyshire

### Aston



Neil Atkin  
Conservative  
07583 111239

### Etwell and Repton



Martyn Ford  
Conservative  
07748 920132

### Hilton



Julie Patten  
Conservative  
07780 222568

### Linton



Pat Murray  
Conservative  
07970 741862

### Melbourne



Linda Chilton  
Conservative  
07969 145632

### Swadlincote Central



Gary Musson  
Conservative  
07590 277060

### Swadlincote South



Stuart Swann  
Conservative  
07970 741687

### Swadlincote North



Sean Bambrick  
Labour  
07969 145362

For more information and to find out  
your councillor's email address visit  
[derbyshire.gov.uk/councillors](http://derbyshire.gov.uk/councillors)

**BE A  
HERO.**  
**BE A FOSTER CARER**

**A hero is someone we can all look up to and admire.  
Some children don't have that role model  
and that's where you come in.**

**Here at Derbyshire County Council  
we need new foster carers.**

You don't need any special qualifications, all you need is to be  
over 21 and have a spare room. We provide training,  
a wide range of benefits and financial support.

We think that fostering is one of the most  
rewarding things you can do and we'd love to talk  
to you about how you can join us to give hope,  
help and healing to children that need it.

**For a no obligation chat  
or for more information  
please call  
0800 083 77 44 or visit  
[derbyshire.gov.uk/fostering](https://derbyshire.gov.uk/fostering)**