Borough MeWs

Your magazine from Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

Reigate & Banstead BOROUGH COUNCIL Banstead | Horley | Redhill | Reigate

Readers' survey

WIN

leisure tickets

Delivering for Redhill

Inside...

Be more confident online

Local organisations that can help

Page 6



Transforming our parks

Helping you stay active all year round



Be prepared

Look after yourself this winter

Page 10



Stronger communities

Our work with community groups

Page 14



Page 8



Dear resident

In May, following my election as Leader, I made a commitment to work with fellow councillors and council staff to serve your interests. Six months on, the enormity of the task ahead hasn't been lost on me.

Next April, our borough will mark 50 years since its foundation. During this time much has been achieved, thanks to my predecessors and a strong team of officers. We will provide details on how we plan to commemorate nearer the time.

This edition of Borough News highlights some of the things we have delivered, are delivering and plan to deliver.

We have made significant investment in our greenspaces to meet a wider range of community needs (page 8-9), changed the face of Redhill town centre with the completion of our flagship development, The Rise, (page 12), and are developing a new Local Plan (page 13). We are committed to supporting the most vulnerable to keep

warm and well over winter (page 10) and if you would like to be more confident online, we've go details of organisations that can help (page 6).

Working with local partners, we are making a positive difference to many local communities (page 14) and encouraging residents to rethink the way they dispose of waste (page 7).

You will see that we have included a survey as an insert to this magazine to get your views on this publication. We would welcome your feedback to help us meet your needs and preferences.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and wish you all the best for the festive season.



Cllr Richard Biggs. Leader of Reigate & Banstead **Borough Council**



@RBBCLeader

Contents

- 4 News catch up on the latest updates from around the borough
- Be more confident online
- **Rethink waste**
- 8 Our great outdoors
- 10 Keep warm, keep well this winter
- 12 Delivering for Redhill
- 13 Shaping the future: our new Local Plan is coming
- 14 Stronger and healthier communities

Plus, take our readers' survey for the chance to win a great prize

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news

We're making it happen in Horley

We will be revamping Horley's Central car park, planting new trees and landscaping, demarcating pedestrian routes and installing electric vehicle charging points to make it a more attractive place to park.

Improvements to the High Street are due to get underway in the spring with wider pavements and a new cycle lane to make walking and cycling easier and safer. The improvements will also allow for more outside seating space and public events. To enable this, part of the High Street, from Albert Road to Consort Way East, will be made one-way. New trees and plants will provide more greenery.



Network Rail is due to carry out work to improve drainage to the town's subway. Once completed, the next phase of the works will seek to make the subway feel safer and more welcoming, with new lighting and public art that we asked local people for feedback on

The projects are all part of our Delivering Change in Horley Town Centre programme, that are being brought forward in partnership with Surrey County Council.

Find out more at: www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/delivering**change** and keep an eye on our social media for updates.

Delivering for our borough

Now in the third year of its delivery, our Reigate & Banstead 2025 five-year plan continues to shape our priorities. Keep an eye out for the People, Place and Organisation badges as you read through this magazine. They highlight where updates fit under the plan's three key themes.



You can read our second annual progress report and find out more about the plan itself at www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/rbbc2025.



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Voter ID is here to stay

Borough Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections will be held on 2 May 2024. A general election will also be called by January 2025.

If you have recently moved, are a first-time voter or are not already registered to vote, register at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote so you can

To vote at a polling station, you will again need to show photo identification (ID). In May, of the 22,538 polling station votes cast, just 43 voters were not issued with a ballot paper by close of poll, including for not having or returning with valid ID. Accepted forms of ID are:

- Passport
- Photocard driving licence
- Blue badge
- Government concessionary travel pass
- Biometric immigration document
- Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) card
- MOD identity card
- Northern Ireland Electoral Identity Card
- European Economic Area national ID card

Those without an approved form of photo ID can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

Using art to improve residents' mental wellbeing

We have a new project that is using art to improve residents' mental wellbeing. Set up in July 2023, the Growing Health through Art and Creativity (GHAC) project enables participants to meet like-minded individuals and grow their social network.

Participation in the programme is mostly through referrals from healthcare professionals. Residents can also self-refer by contacting the Council directly via email to: arts@reigate-banstead.gov.uk.

The sessions – which include various art activities such as painting, singing, poetry and creative writing – are led by art professionals. They can be taken in blocks of six to eight weeks or once a month for an extended period. The project is run in partnership with Arts Council England, The Baring Foundation, Growing Health Together, Hera and the NHS. Check www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/ghac.

When Pride in Surrey came to town

Hundreds marched through the streets of Reigate on Saturday 9 September to celebrate the LGBTQI+ community when Pride in Surrey came to town.

The colourful parade began at the Town Hall, after being flagged off by the Mayor of Reigate & Banstead, Cllr Eddy Humphreys, with cannons of rainbow confetti. It then made its way through the town centre into Priory Park.

Many local organisations took part in in the parade, including Surrey County Council, the NHS, Surrey Police, Southeast Coast Ambulance Service, Surrey Wildlife Trust, the University of Surrey, and our own Reigate & Banstead delegation. Local businesses, community and faith groups also took part.

In Priory Park, the crowds were treated to music, live entertainment, food stalls and a funfair.

On one of the hottest days of the year, SES Water provided water for the revellers using their 'Quenchinator' - an 11,000 litre tanker - stationed in

It was the fourth time Pride in Surrey has held an event of this kind since its foundation in 2018.









A more sustainable **Reigate & Banstead**

We are continuing work to deliver our Environmental Sustainability Strategy and move towards becoming a greener, more sustainable borough. We are looking at opportunities to reduce our carbon emissions and we are helping residents and businesses to do their bit as well. You can find out more - and see some ideas about what you can do - on our website www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/ sustainability.

Over the coming months, we are also reviewing what action we need to take to continue to combat climate change and support the natural environment. To find out about this review, drop us an email to sustainability@reigate-banstead. gov.uk – we'd love to let you know more!













Be more confident online

As the internet continues to change our daily lives, here are some of the local organisations that can help you be more confident online.

In the 34 years since Tim Berners-Lee invented the world wide web, online shopping, banking, council services, and even job interviews, have become the norm. Social media, email and video conferencing are important parts of our social lives too.

Doing things online can be fun, save you time and money, and be better for the environment; but it can also be a challenge.

Council Tax e-billing is coming soon. You can help us save money and the planet one bill at a time by choosing to go paperless.

Improve your digital skills

Here is some of the support that's available locally:

- Computer tuition and Tech Volunteers are available at our community centres. Visit www.reigate-banstead. gov.uk/community-centres or contact:
- Horley Community Centre on 01293 772240 or horleycommunitycentre@reigate-banstead.gov.uk
- Woodhatch Community Centre on 01737 221030 or woodhatchcommunitycentre@reigate-banstead.
- Banstead Community Centre on 01737 361712 or bansteadcommunitycentre@reigate-banstead.
- Surrey Libraries provide free one-to-one support with Digital Buddies. Phone Surrey County Council's Community Helpline on 0300 200 1008 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm or email libraries@surreycc.gov.uk
- Tech Angels can loan a device and help you learn how to use it within your own home. To refer yourself or someone you know visit www.surreycoalition.org.uk, call **01483 456558**, text **07840 202820** or email getconnected@surreycoalition.org.uk
- Merstham Community Facility Trust offer free IT support sessions on Thursdays, between 2 and 4pm at the Hub. To book an appointment call 01737 333461 or email info@mcft.org.uk

Find out more at www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/computer-skills.

Tech Volunteers in Woodhatch **Community Centre**

Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, Tech Volunteers, Ron, Phil and Lloyd, are on hand at Woodhatch Community Centre to support people with their technical challenges.

They help build people's confidence in using smartphones, tablets or computers and they give advice and tips on downloading useful apps, browsing the internet, creating digital presentations, and much more.

Visitors can bring their own devices or get access to technology and the internet from the centre's well-equipped computer room.



Mary and Mike, who have been improving their computer and keyboard skills, and Tech Volunteer, Ron.

Rethink waste

Sign up to Rethink Waste to take the next step towards reducing your carbon footprint.

To achieve net zero by 2050 everyone will need to do their bit to reduce the borough's waste and emissions. The new Rethink Waste scheme, delivered by Surrey Environment Partnership, will help people to reduce their waste and save the planet's precious resources.

Residents sign up online to access a personalised dashboard with lots of tips and local resources, as well as a carbon footprint tracker to monitor their progress. Once signed up, members receive weekly emails with engaging activities, such as pledges, videos and quizzes aimed at encouraging small, yet impactful, lifestyle changes.

By taking part, members receive points, which can be used to enter competitions for exciting prizes like iPads and TVs, make donations to charities, or support local schools.



waste. It's about the things people buy and how they use them; whether things can be re-used or recycled rather than thrown away.

For example, growing, processing, packaging and disposing of food all have a major impact on the environment. The good news is that we are seeing a reduction in the amount of food we throw away in the borough. The food we do collect is all sent for anaerobic digestion in Surrey, where it is converted

into electricity and fertiliser for farmers.

In the coming months the scheme will have tips and ideas for reducing food waste further, helping people to cut down on the rubbish associated with their household cleaning, and much more.

To sign up to Rethink Waste visit www.greenredeem.co.uk/rethink-waste.

Christmas bin collections

There will be no bin collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day.

If your bins are due to be collected on **Monday 25 December** they will be picked up two days earlier than usual on Saturday 23 December.

From 26 December, all collections will be **one day later than usual**, with crews also working on the Saturdays. Normal collections will resume on Monday 8 January.

The annual two-week **suspension of the garden waste service** starts from Saturday 23 December. Members will be able to recycle their Christmas trees with their garden waste once the service **resumes on** Monday 8 January.















Enjoy our great outdoors

We're investing in the borough's parks and play areas so you can stay active all year round.



Whether you want to stay fit, have some fun or get closer to nature, there's something for everyone to enjoy in our wellloved open spaces. Our new schemes are designed to offer healthy, free activities for all abilities and this year's highlights have been a major refurbishment of Lady Neville Recreation Ground in Banstead, a new skatepark in Preston Park in Tadworth, a sensory area in Priory Park playground in Reigate, as well as three new outdoor fitness areas.

With plans underway for the transformation of Merstham Recreation Ground, funding secured for an upgrade of Memorial Park playground and outdoor gym in Redhill, as well as our annual programme of play area improvements, we're looking forward to delivering more for you to enjoy.

Skills and thrills in Preston

Funded through our Preston regeneration programme, the revamped skatepark in Preston Park opened in August this year. The modern skatepark, complete with jump boxes, rails and quarter pipes, is designed to challenge riders of all abilities. It is suitable for skateboards, scooters, bikes or wheelchair motocross and there's new seating for those who just want to stay and watch the freewheeling action.

Other skateparks in the borough can be found in Priory Park, Reigate, and Horley Recreation Ground (managed by Horley Town Council which looks after most green spaces in Horley).



Sustainable playgrounds

Ocean waste, such as discarded fishing nets, and recycled food packaging has been transformed into more than 65 new play features in a major upgrade of Banstead's Lady Neville Recreation Ground play area. This approach has reduced the carbon emissions usually associated with traditional playgrounds, and is a great example of our commitment to recycling.

The new play area includes a toddler play zone for younger visitors and there's a challenging high tower with bridge links, platforms, nets and slides for older children. A further play zone with an accessible wheelchair ramp, inclusive carousel and multi seesaw makes sure there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Young scooter riders can also learn to 'drive' using the road markings and mini roundabout at the new mini scooter park next door.



Workout for free

More people can workout for free in our greenspaces thanks to new outdoor fitness areas in Woodhatch Park, Lady Neville Recreation Ground and Priory Park. With options to link



exercises to a free mobile phone app, users can learn how the gym equipment works, see the benefits of each exercise and, in some cases, track their progress.

The fitness areas were funded through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions, which is money collected from developers to help fund infrastructure and local services to support new developments. The CIL bids were suggested by local ward councillors, who also gave their feedback on the most suitable schemes for their areas. They are a welcome addition to existing equipment at Kingswood Recreation Ground, Laker's Rise in Chipstead, Nork Park, Redhill's Memorial Park, Preston Park and Salfords Social Club. All are free to use and recommended for people aged 13 and over.

Playing with all the senses

The introduction of a sensory play area to the popular Priory Park playground has been a smash hit. The musical instruments, which can be heard throughout the day, along with touchable play panels and aromatic planting, engage all the senses and create an extra buzz for all visitors.

Inspired by a resident's visit to one of the Council Leader's surgeries, this sensory area was also funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).



Your new Merstham Rec

The refurbishment of Merstham Recreation Ground is set to get underway next year so that more people will be able to enjoy the space for a wider range of activities.

Plans include a new pavilion with café kiosk, toilets and changing rooms, and a green roof with solar panels; a new fun and challenging play area for children of all



ages and abilities; a parkour course for over 12s and youth shelter; an outdoor gym; improved paths to provide better accessibility and a new circular walking route; a picnic area and community orchard plus new trees and landscaping.

Facilities will be located in a 'green heart' for ease and to retain space for sports pitches.

We'll share more detail on project timings once a contractor has been appointed.

For more information see www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/merstham-rec.

Time for a cuppa?

For those that enjoy a cuppa and a bite to eat during their visit, improvements are getting underway at our three café pavilions in Priory Park, Memorial Park and Lady Neville Recreation Ground. The facilities are being updated in advance of their reopening under the management of new operators, with new menus and a variety of drinks and tasty treats on offer.

















Keep warm, keep well this winter



Keeping nice and warm will help you stay well over winter. So, prepare yourself, your home, and keep an eye out for the most vulnerable.

The colder and darker months can be difficult for everyone, especially for people who have a health condition or disability and those who are struggling financially. We've put together some useful advice.

Warm hubs

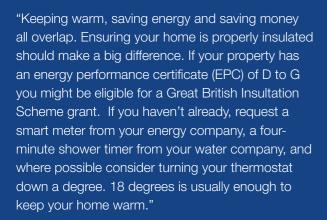
Our three community centres in Banstead, Horley and Woodhatch operate as warm hubs from 9am-4pm Monday to Friday, offering activities ranging from art to Zumba classes, and lots in between. Check www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/ community-centres.

For details of other warm hubs in the borough see www.warmwelcome.uk.

Some energy saving tips

NO VALUE DE

Alan Mills is a Sustainability Officer at Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. He said:



To learn more about the things that could help, check www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/ sustainability.



Advice from Age Concern

We spoke to Sandy Featherstonhaugh, Chief Officer, Age Concern Merstham, Redhill and Reigate who had the following advice on staying warm.

Eat well - food is an essential source of energy to help keep your body warm, so it is important to have regular hot meals and drinks throughout the day. To save fuel, try heating a whole tin of soup in the morning and putting it in a thermos flask - this will keep it hot, and you can have small amounts as needed.

Warm clothes - wear layers of clothing to trap the heat between layers, make sure your hands and feet are warm and wear thick socks and gloves if you need them. If you are feeling cold pop a hat on to keep your head warm.

Bedtime – put an extra blanket or throw on the bed at night. This will help you to stay warm and get a good night's sleep, which will give your body the extra energy needed to help maintain your body heat.

Move around – try to stay mobile and move around as much as possible, this will help to get your blood flow and circulation going, which will help you to stay warmer.

Visit www.ageconcernmrr.org.uk.

Keep an eye on the weather

Subscribe to weather alerts at www.metoffice.gov.uk and sign up for flood warnings at www.fws.environment-agency.gov.uk.

Cold weather payments

You may be eligible for a Cold Weather Payment if you get certain benefits or Support for Mortgage Interest. You'll automatically get £25 for each seven-day period if the average temperature in your area is recorded as, or forecast to be, zero degrees Celsius or below. Check www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment.

Struggling with energy costs?

In Horley, the Horley Lions can help with energy costs through their Warm Over Winter campaign, which you can access through the foodbank, food club or local schools. In the rest of the borough, contact Citizen's Advice Reigate and Banstead or, if you are one of their tenants, Raven Housing Trust to find out if you are eligible for support through funding from the Household Support Fund.

Check www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/householdsupport-fund.

Ask for support

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, 24-hour support is available. Call 0800 915 4644 for free if you, or someone you care for, is in a crisis. If you have speech or hearing difficulties, contact: SMS text: 07717 989024. You can also call the Samaritans on **116 123**. Alternatively check www.surreyheartlands.org/mental-health.

FREE ACTIVITY FOR TWO!

Exchange this coupon at your local community centre for a free activity for two people between January and March 2024. Activities include art, Zumba, and more.

Get your vaccinations

We encourage anyone eligible for vaccination to take up the offer as soon as they are called. This will ensure you head into winter with the best protection. For the latest vaccination information, check www.nhs.uk/flujab and www.nhs.uk/nhs-services.



















#DestinationRedhill

Redhill is changing, with the completion of our landmark development The Rise, the opening of entertainment venue The Light, and more to come.













The Rise of Redhill

The Light Redhill opened its much-anticipated new cinema and leisure experience in the summer within the Council's flagship development, The Rise. The venue boasts a six-screen cinema, ten-lane bowl, mini golf, climbing arena, karaoke, a restaurant and bar and more - all under one roof.

The Rise is also home to Posedero Lounge – an all-day café bar and Creams dessert parlour, as well as a Tesco Express, all of which are proving popular with visitors. We are in discussions with some exciting potential tenants for the other units, so watch this space!

In a deal agreed between the Council and The Belfry shopping centre, visitors can get low-cost evening parking and customers of The Light can park for free after 6pm if they validate their tickets.

Tenants have also begun to move into the 150 flats, let and managed by Kooky, and some are still available.

Find out more at www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk.



Also set for a revamp is Redhill Library, as part of Surrey County Council's multi-million-pound libraries investment programme. It includes meeting pods, meeting rooms with a kitchenette, moveable partitions to create agile workspaces, space for events, exhibitions and community use. We have committed £500,000 in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding towards the project, which is expected to be completed by the end next year.

See www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries for details.





Improving public space

The pedestrianised part of the High Street, between Maple Square and Cromwell Road, is to get a makeover with new surfacing, street furniture and landscaping. Engagement on the plans will take place later in 2024. Almost £800,000 has been allocated towards the project through CIL funding a levy on new developments in the borough.

C 2 @reigatebanstead

Buy local at Redhill Market

Redhill Market, which runs on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays has a new operator, Food Rocks, and a fresh look with new canopies. The operator is working to attract a wider range of stalls and already hosts a butcher, greengrocer, fishmonger, a vibrant array of street food stalls and general household goods.

See www.reigate-banstead. gov.uk/redhill-street-markets















We've started work to prepare our new Local Plan. Find out how you can get involved to help ensure our borough remains an attractive and thriving place to live, work and visit.

Planning is one of the Council's key responsibilities and impacts everyone. It helps shape the environment we live in, the places we work, the open spaces we enjoy and how we travel.

A Local Plan plays an important part in this. It sets out where new development like homes, commercial space and facilities will go and guides what development looks like, usually over 10-15 years.

Our Local Plan will help to ensure that facilities and services such as schools, GP surgeries and public transport are put in place to support development as well as protect the environment and character of the area.

In addition, it will set ambitious environmental sustainability and biodiversity requirements and take into account changes since our last plan, such as how people shop and work following the Covid-19 pandemic and adapting to climate change.

Importantly, Local Plans present a valuable opportunity for you to help shape the future of your borough.

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

Preparing our plan

Developing a Local Plan takes several years. As our existing Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted almost 10 years ago, we are starting on our new one now.

It involves gathering and updating evidence, consulting with local communities at different stages and preparing policies for independent examination by Government Planning Inspectors, before it is adopted by the Council.

Our research will help us understand potential locations for development, the number of new homes needed, and other details.

National changes to plan making are also in the pipeline. They will change how we produce our new Local Plan.

Get involved

We want to collaborate with local communities to develop our next Local Plan, so there will be opportunities for you to get involved at different stages. To start with, we will create a panel of residents, businesses and representatives from the voluntary sector, and hold workshops (online and in person) next year to explore ideas. We are especially keen to involve younger people as we are planning for their futures.

If you are interested in having your say, email LDF@reigate-banstead.gov.uk with your contact details and areas of interest.

For more information and to register for Local Plan updates and future planning consultations, visit www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/emerging-planning-





Stronger and healthier local communities

Our Community Development Team supports a variety of local projects to improve residents' physical and mental health.

Growing Health Together aims to improve local health and wellbeing by linking GPs and other health professionals with community partners and residents. With funding from the NHS, we are supporting a wide range of projects, including a stay and play group in Merstham, a community garden in Whitebushes, a women's wellness group in Redhill, and a men's group in Horley.



Kiln Community Garden

Located in Whitebushes, this charming oasis of raised planters bursting with vibrant flowers and aromatic herbs is an example of how residents can transform a previously neglected part of their community into a vibrant space. Every first Saturday of the month, residents meet there to connect, bond, and revel in nature.



Asian Women Wellness Hub

The Asian Women's Wellness Hub is a nurturing space where women receive health advice, engage in meaningful activities, and connect with the community. It was set up in response to the unique challenges faced by older Asian women in Redhill. The group uses health workshops, fitness classes and therapy to improve participants' mental health, physical strength and mobility. Meetings are every fortnight on Thursdays from 1pm to 2.30pm at the Longmead Community Hub.

Hublets stay and play sessions

Hublets is a free, weekly stay and play session at Merstham Community Hub. It provides a place for parents and carers to come together and connect over a cuppa while their children have fun. Hublets sessions are for the under 5s and are run by volunteer parents. Our plan is to expand Hublets into a local parent network, where parents can meet up, share experiences, and stay connected.



Men in Sheds

The Men in Sheds project operates at the Horley Health Hub every Tuesday morning between 9am and 12 noon. It is a chance for people to meet, talk, create and work together.

If you have an idea for a group or project that could improve the wellbeing of your local community, or you would like to get involved in any of these projects, we would love to hear from you. Contact

communitypartnerships@reigatebanstead.gov.uk or 01737 276493.



@reigatebanstead



Helping you to live well for longer



Operated by Mole Valley District Council, in partnership with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Mole Valley Life is here to give you and those you care for the reassurance and peace of mind needed to live safe and well at home for longer. Whether it be through the touch of a button on one of our Lifeline Alarms, or through one of our Wellbeing calls the Mole Valley Life team is here to support you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Mr. H has been using a lifeline alarm for over twenty years and he can't imagine his life without it. He believes that without the alarm, he would not be as independent as he is now. His late wife was also a lifeline alarm user and it gave him peace of mind knowing that she was taken care of when he went out to run errands.

Before Mr. H was a client himself, he had a fall due to tripping on his meal tray while getting up from his chair, he was left lying on the floor for more than an hour before his caregiver came in. It took another hour for an ambulance to arrive, which made him realise that he needed a lifeline alarm. Now. with his alarm. Mr. H and his daughter have peace of mind knowing that he can simply press a button in case he needs assistance, or the fall detector will alert our Alarm Receiving Centre in Surrey should he ever have a fall. Our friendly call operators will then call an emergency contact or ambulance service if necessary, getting Mr. H the help he needs.



With the aid of daily carer visits and an alarm system, Mr. H now lives independently and feels more confident while being home alone. He believes that this service is vital for individuals who live alone, and that it has helped prevent recurring falls.

I am totally reliant on the Lifeline Alarm and don't know what I would do without it.

Devices can be invaluable in giving users the confidence and independence to continue their daily activities, knowing they can call for help should they need it.

These devices can be there to help a whole range of people from the vulnerable, those living or working alone, living with various health needs, or wanting additional measures for instance joggers or children walking to and from school.

GET IN TOUCH 😢 👰 🔭





You can find more information on the full range of products at; www.molevalleylife.co.uk/ independent

Speak to our trained team members **01372 204500**, SMS Text **07800 000385** or email us at mvlife@molevalley.gov.uk













GREENSAND HOUSE CARE HOME

Live Safe & Well

Greensand House Care Home in Salfords offers a safe and supportive environment where residents can flourish, make new friends, remain part of their local community and live a life of possibility.

- Residential, dementia and respite care Nutritionally balanced seasonal menus
 - Spacious, beautifully decorated bedrooms Highly trained staff teams
 - Stimulating schedule of daily activities and entertainment









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