

Knowsley News

June 2017

Welcome to Knowsley news

There's never been a more exciting time to live or work in Knowsley with so many major developments progressing and more on the horizon - all aimed at accelerating growth in jobs, housing and business.

Delivering 8,100 new homes, implementing three town centre masterplans, which will guide future town centre developments, along with progressing £30m of the Single Investment Fund (SIF) are just a few examples of how we are investing in, and growing, our borough. The SIF funding will be used to support the development of Halsnead Garden Village, the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescot, along with enhancements to Prescot train station and improving transport links between the station and Prescot town centre.

We also have a range of fantastic events coming up - the popular Knowsley Flower Show returns for its 19th year in August, the Knowsley Feelgood Festival is also another date for your diary and Kirkby Gallery presents Willy Russell's first ever solo exhibition of his paintings. You can find out more on pages 3 and 4.

In this edition, there's an update on Ofsted's recent inspection of our Children's Services which concluded that significant improvements have been made - see page 2 for further details. Remember you can keep up-to-date with all of the latest news at www.knowsleynews.co.uk

Cllr Andy Moorhead
Leader of Knowsley Council

News In Brief...

More services available online

There's never been a better time to contact the council online. It's free, quick and easy with more services available online, including booking a pest control appointment. Discover what you can do online today at www.knowsley.gov.uk

Have your say on the future of parks

During July and August, the Knowsley Parks and Green Spaces Review Board will be asking for residents' views on their recommendations about the future funding and governance of parks and green spaces. Look out for updates on www.knowsleynews.co.uk

Find out more on all these stories at www.knowsleynews.co.uk

The Mayor of Knowsley

Councillor Frank Walsh is the Mayor of Knowsley for 2017/18

A former firefighter from Huyton, he has been a councillor representing the St Gabriel's ward since 2008. Frank has served the borough as Mayor on two previous occasions.

Over the coming year, he will be raising money for two worthy causes which support people across Knowsley.

For 2017/18, the Mayor's Charity will support Willowbrook Hospice, which offers care and support for adults with life-limiting illnesses.

A donation will also be made to Lyndale Cancer Support, which offers care and support to people affected by cancer, their families and friends.

Meet the Liverpool City Region Mayor

Labour candidate Steve Rotheram, who was born in Kirkby, has been elected the first ever Liverpool City Region Mayor.

Having a directly elected Mayor was a condition of the Liverpool City Region's Devolution Agreement with the Government, which secured £900m of funding for the City Region over the next 30 years as well as devolving decision making to the City Region's Combined Authority in relation to key priorities such as transport.

Mr Rotheram's term is three years and another election will take place in 2020.

Agreement in place for Kirkby supermarket

A deal has been agreed for one of the UK's leading supermarkets to open a major new food store in Kirkby town centre.

It is anticipated that regeneration specialist St Modwen will finalise the legal agreements and formally announce the high-profile supermarket later this summer.

Further updates will be available on www.knowsleynews.co.uk

Knowsley Apprentice - recruiting now!

If you're leaving school or college this summer and thinking about your next step, think about becoming a Knowsley Apprentice. As well as getting work experience, you'll gain a recognised qualification and earn a good salary.

Visit www.knowsley.gov.uk/apprentice to find out more. The closing date for applications is Tuesday, 11 July 2017.

Significant improvements made in Knowsley's Children's Services

A re-inspection of Knowsley Council's Children's Services by Ofsted in March has concluded that significant improvements have been made in the transformation of children's social care and the services delivered by Knowsley Council and partners.

Ofsted stated that the council has achieved these improvements through a wholesale and effective cultural and structural transformation.

Adoption, experience and progress of care leavers, leadership, management and governance were all judged to be 'good' (two of which were previously judged to be 'inadequate'). Children who need help and protection and children looked after and achieving permanence were judged as 'requires improvement'. This gives an overall judgement of 'requires improvement'. The 'inadequate' tag issued in 2014 has now been formally removed.

Cllr Joan Lilly, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, said, "I'm delighted with this inspection, which reflects the hard work and commitment of our staff. We have been through a complete cultural and structural transformation which is clearly benefitting our children, young people and families. I look forward to building on this success to ensure our children and families achieve their potential and prosper."

Feelgood Festival and Flower Show amongst Knowsley's summer highlights

Expect lots of colourful fun at the Knowsley Feelgood Festival and Flower Show this August – including some spectacular knitted décor brightening the trees at Court Hey Park thanks to the handiwork of community group Knitwits. Both events take place at Court Hey Park in Huyton and are completely free to attend.

The Feelgood Festival, on Saturday, 5 August from 1pm until 5pm, will be packed with activities and performances to help improve your health and wellbeing. It's a chance to try mindful yoga, pick up some relaxation techniques, try some fitness and sporting activities, try your hand at drawing and painting, enjoy some complementary therapies and even take part in a family bike ride on the day.

Then on Sunday, 6 August, you can expect even more flower power than usual as the renowned Knowsley Flower Show returns, from 11am until 5pm. At the show's heart is always the breath-taking floral marquee, bursting with potentially prize-winning fruit, vegetables and flowers. Get growing and you could be entering your pride and joy into one of the 100 categories, suitable for novices and experienced growers alike. Download the schedule of classes now at www.knowsleyflowershow.com.

Keen gardeners will love the many plant and seed stalls offering great value, and the chance to get expert tips at the Gardener's Question Time event.

There's also a rich programme of family entertainment, including dog displays in the main arena, live music inspired by the Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club album, Geraud's large farmers' market, circus skills, glitter faces and a health and wellbeing zone plus lots of trade stands.

Visit www.knowsleyflowershow.com which gives details of the free shuttle buses in and around Knowsley and 'like' the show on Facebook for all the latest news.

Bring the kids in fancy dress and win

Both the Feelgood Festival and Flower Show will kick off with a flower power themed fancy dress competition for children – with some amazing prizes to be won.

So have some fun with some seventies inspired attire, and head long to the main arena at the Feelgood Festival for 1pm, or 1.15pm at the Flower Show.

Prizes include vouchers for Spaceworld play centre, Velocity trampoline park and Knowsley Safari.

Download an entry form from www.knowsleyflowershow.com

To keep up-to-date with what's on in Knowsley, visit www.knowsleynews.co.uk

Enjoy 'Another Aspect' to Willy Russell at Kirkby Gallery

The first ever solo exhibition of paintings by playwright Willy Russell is now on display at Kirkby Gallery.

The collection reveals for the first time a whole new aspect to the talents of the man widely known for stage and screen works including Educating Rita, Shirley Valentine and Blood Brothers.

From glorious landscape watercolours and acrylics to experimental semi-abstract works in acrylic inks, the paintings in the Another Aspect exhibition vividly bring to life Willy Russell's journey as a visual artist – which started only 10 years ago.

Willy's decision to host his first ever solo art exhibition came about after working with Tina Ball and the team at Knowsley Council's Kirkby Gallery, who curated an exhibition in 2015 charting his writing career called Willy Russell: Behind the Scenes.

Willy says,

“Tina and her team did such a brilliant job with the archive exhibition that when it came to exhibiting my artwork, the idea of the Kirkby Gallery seemed just right and natural. Kirkby Gallery is a really great space to exhibit, I love it.”

Entry to Another Aspect is free, and the Gallery is open Monday to Friday from 9am - 5pm (closed for lunch 12.30 - 1pm) and Saturday 10am - 1pm. The exhibition is on until 2 September.

What's on in the libraries

There's lots going on for children in Knowsley's libraries over the summer school holidays.

The packed programme of events includes the Summer Reading Challenge and the theme this year is Animal Agents.

There's also a range of fun sessions, from crafts and board games to storytelling, magic shows and coding sessions. There's something for children of all ages!

Visit www.knowsleynews.co.uk to find out more.

Knowsley Business Awards 2017

Nominations for this year's Business Awards, celebrating the achievements of individuals and organisation from across Knowsley, are now open! Find out more at www.knowsleybusinessawards.com. The closing date for nominations is 4 August and the award ceremony takes place on 23 November.

Nominations open for Knowsley Sports & Culture Awards

If you know someone who deserves recognition for their achievements in sport or culture, then why not nominate them in this year's Knowsley Sports and Culture Awards? The closing date for nominations is Friday, 15 September. To make a nomination, visit the council's website (search sports and culture).

What's on at the venue

Join us for an evening of smooth Soul and memorable Motown when Soul Legend appears at The Venue's Cabaret Evening on Friday, 14 July from 7.30pm to 11pm. Tickets are just £15 and include a hot supper. Further information on this event and the upcoming autumn / winter line up, can be found on www.thevenuehuyton.co.uk

Liverpool City Region's only Garden Village New homes for Halsnead Garden Village

The Halsnead Masterplan will be considered by Knowsley Council's Cabinet on 28 June. It will ensure that any development will meet Knowsley's ambitions for high quality design, construction and environmental standards.

In the first phase of development, a planning application from a national housebuilder is expected to be submitted over the summer for around 300 high quality family homes and affordable housing options.

Halsnead Garden Village will be a new, vibrant community and is a key part of the council's ambitious growth plans for residential and employment development in Knowsley. Check www.knowsleynews.co.uk for updates.

Shakespeare North Playhouse

It's an exciting time for Prescot as ambitious plans to create a world-class Shakespearean Playhouse in the town are moving apace.

The lead architect, supporting architect, design team, engineering services, archaeologist and lead artist are all in place and survey work has started on the site on Mill Street.

Construction of the Playhouse is expected to start in January 2018 and it is due to be open in April 2020.

For more news, search 'Shakespeare' on www.knowsleynews.co.uk

Improved leisure facilities in Kirkby

The gym at Kirkby Leisure Centre has undergone a complete transformation and now includes a functional area with a sled track and free weight area, along with the latest cardiovascular and resistance equipment.

Plus, there's a new fitness class timetable out so why not try something new and book your place today?

3G football pitch opening soon

The new 3G, floodlit football pitch in Kirkby is due to be open in the summer and bookings are now being taken.

To find out more about the new leisure facilities or 3G pitch, call the Volair team on 0151 443 2200.

Rock the Ark

Capturing Knowsley's music memories!

If you have fond memories and memorabilia of artists and groups you went to see while growing up in Knowsley, ARK - the council's archive - would love to hear from you.

Your story could be of an artist or group from anywhere, so long as you live or work in Knowsley, or did at the time of your experience.

If you'd be willing to be recorded talking about your experiences, the recordings will be added to the collections and preserved for future generations.

'Rock the ARK' is also looking for donations of music memorabilia with a connection to Knowsley such as photos, tickets and flyers.

To find out more, visit www.knowsleynews.co.uk

#Knowsleypound

The council's budget... explained!

Did you know that Knowsley Council is the hardest hit local authority across the country when it comes to central Government funding cuts?

Do you know where the council's funding comes from and how it is spent? See below for the answers.

How much has the council's funding been cut?

Since 2010, the council has had the highest cuts per person in the country – the Government's cuts equate to £485 per person, whilst a more affluent area such as Wokingham is managing cuts of just £43 per person. Those areas that need funding the most are the ones being penalised the most.

How is the council funded?

Along with central Government funding, the council is funded through Council Tax and Business Rates, which is why we are working hard to build more houses offering greater choice, as well as attracting new businesses into the borough and helping existing ones to expand.

Council funding	290 million pounds
Government grant	19%
Business rate	32%
Council tax	16%
Fees and charges	13%
Partner contribution	20%

What does the council budget fund?

Whilst managing the budget cuts, we have tried to protect those services which our residents need the most.

Adult social care	102 million pounds
Children's social care	30 million pounds
Culture and libraries	5 million pounds
Customer services	5 million pounds
Education and children's services	36 million pounds
Waste management and bin collections	12 million pounds
Improving roads	21 million pounds
Improving health and wellbeing	18 million pounds
Keeping the borough clean	10 million pounds
Neighbourhood and community services	22 million pounds
Regeneration and housing	11 million pounds
Supporting business and creating jobs	18 million pounds

Want to know more?

To find out more, visit the council's website - www.knowsley.gov.uk/budget - or search for #knowsleypound on Twitter.

www.knowsley.gov.uk/budget

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