

Tewkesbury Borough **NEWS**

Your free community magazine

Winter 2025

**Supporting young people:
tackling homelessness
side by side**

**Growing together:
community gardening
in Norton and Twynning**

**Recycle right this
Christmas: tree-cycling
and the scrunch test**

**What Local Government
Reorganisation means
for our borough**

What's on
**THIS
WINTER**

**Help shape the future of your area
- new engagement for the Strategic
and Local Plan is live**

Photo by Richard Humphrey Photography: Views over Ashleworth

Welcome

The winter season has arrived, and I'm pleased to share the latest updates and seasonal highlights from across our amazing borough.

Inside, you'll discover inspiring stories about how local groups and businesses are making a real difference in our communities. A great example is the Tewkesbury Access Forum, a new team working to make our borough more accessible for everyone.

There are updates on community projects, including a community garden in Twynning and a new growing space at Norton, a special parish feature on Ashleworth, useful Christmas recycling tips, and you can also hear from Derek Bond, the new Chief Executive Officer at The Roses Theatre.

If you're looking for festive fun or local events, don't miss our 'what's on' page, which is packed with ideas to help you enjoy the season with family and friends.

Thanks for reading - and if you have any thoughts or ideas, we'd love to hear from you.



Laura Carter

Editor

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Out of hours emergencies: **01684 293445**

Gloucestershire County Council

gloucestershire.gov.uk

Phone: **01452 425000**

Out of hours emergencies: **01452 614194**

Parish councils

To find out the contact details of your local parish council, please visit:

teewkesbury.gov.uk and search for parish councils.

Leader's update

Winter is a time to come together, reflect and celebrate our fantastic communities that are at the heart of everything we do.



We're committed to creating places where people feel supported, included, and proud to call them home.

Every initiative we deliver, from planning for future growth to improving local services, has the aim of improving the quality of life for everyone.

The Strategic and Local Plan (SLP) is probably the largest initiative we are leading. Our current SLP engagement is live and your views will help shape a borough that balances sustainable development with the character and heritage we all value. Please take the time to share your feedback, it will make a real difference.


We're also continuing to work hard on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), to make sure that changes bring decision-making closer to our residents and strengthen our local services. We will work closely with neighbouring councils to help deliver a smooth transition in 2028 that benefits all communities in the county.

Our Garden Communities programme is progressing well, working to create sustainable living spaces that combine homes, green areas and community facilities. These developments are about more than housing and infrastructure; they're about building vibrant, connected neighbourhoods for generations to come.

As always, our Council Plan underpins this work, focusing on wellbeing, economic resilience, and remaining responsible for our green environment.

I hope you can take time this winter to enjoy some of the many creative and cultural experiences across Tewkesbury Borough. From festive markets and local art exhibitions to seasonal performances, there's something for everyone, and supporting local businesses and events is a wonderful way to keep our communities strong.

Your feedback continues to be invaluable as we move forward together. Please keep sharing your views and ideas - they help shape the future we all want to see.



Richard Stanley, Leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council

Get creative this winter in Tewkesbury Borough

Shorter days and longer evenings offer the perfect time to connect with your creative side and learn a new skill right here in Tewkesbury Borough. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or a complete beginner, there's a wide range of different opportunities waiting for you.

Pottery painting is a great idea for creating special Christmas gifts for loved ones. In Tewkesbury there is The Spotty Dog Pottery Place, and Winchcombe offers Paint it Yourself Pottery. Both venues have sessions available for all ages and abilities. If you're looking for something truly special as a gift, why not head over to Winchcombe Pottery and get inspired by renowned master potter Peter Cardew. If you have a group, contact the pottery to arrange a tour.

Alternatively, visit Nature in Art, a museum and art gallery dedicated exclusively to art inspired by nature. Explore their collection, housed in the stunning Wallsworth Hall and get lost in nature - inside! You can even meet an artist-in-residence during one of their demonstration sessions.

For a different kind of craft, why not try the art of cocktail making ahead of Christmas? Discover Mixology's cocktail or mocktail masterclasses at Gupshill Manor. Cocktail mixing offers exciting classes where you can learn to create delicious drinks. It's the perfect way to warm up on a chilly evening.

The autumn and winter seasons are all about getting cosy and creative, and in our borough there is a whole community of crafters and makers ready to welcome you.

Councillor Richard Stanley, Leader of the Council, said:

"Let's celebrate the joy of getting creative this winter, spending quality time with loved ones, and supporting our fantastic local businesses."

Whether you're painting pottery, exploring nature-inspired art, or mixing cocktails, there's something for everyone to enjoy right here in Tewkesbury Borough. It's a wonderful time to try something new, have fun, and connect with our vibrant creative community."



Find more things to do: [visittewkesbury.info](https://www.visittewkesbury.info)

Helping our local economy thrive is a key priority in the Council Plan. Find out why it matters and what the borough council is doing to support it.

Learn more: [tewkesbury.gov.uk/council-plan](https://www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/council-plan)

Photo: Councillor Richard Stanley, Leader of the council, outside The Spotty Dog Pottery Place

Important: New rules for postal voting



If you applied for a postal vote before **31 January 2024**, it will expire on **31 January 2026**.

Reapply now to make sure you can continue voting by post in future elections.

- Either scan the QR code
- Visit [gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote)
- Or contact the Elections team - details below.



phone: **01684 272025** email: elections@tewkesbury.gov.uk



Photo: Book exchange, Parish councillors and volunteers, Ashleworth sheep

Parish life in... Ashleworth

Tony Eardley, Chair of Ashleworth Parish Council, shares what makes this village special



Tell us a little about your parish and what makes it special

Ashleworth is a peaceful village just off the Gloucester to Ledbury Road, where walkers, cyclists and horse riders are as frequent as cars. With no main road running through it, the village enjoys a quiet charm.

At the centre of village life is the Ashleworth Hub, a thriving space with a post office and coffee shop which has licensed dining three nights a week. Nearby is the village school, dating back to 1842, which maintains close ties with the church and community.

The Grade I listed church, St Andrew and St Bartholomew, has stood for over a thousand years. It now hosts the Benefice BIG Church, an informal and welcoming service for all ages.

A vibrant and active community

Ashleworth Memorial Hall (AMH), next to the hub, is a modern, well-equipped venue run by volunteers. It hosts regular activities like yoga, pilates, and toddler groups, and is available for private hire. Thanks to council grants, AMH now has a new AV system, Wi-Fi, and a fully upgraded kitchen, used to support events like the popular monthly community lunch.

From October to March, AMH becomes a cosy cinema, screening recent films - often with a licensed bar for a relaxed evening out.

Ashleworth Woodpeckers Sports and Social Club, known as 'Woodies', has been a village favourite for over 50 years. It's home to cricket and youth football

teams, skittles leagues, and even Monday night cribbage. Plans are underway to improve facilities and welcome new members.

The role of the parish council

Ashleworth Parish Council plays a vital role in village life. It reviews planning applications, works with Severn Trent on drainage, supports flood prevention, and liaises with County Highways to maintain local lanes.

The parish council also allocates Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds, from the borough council, to support local projects.

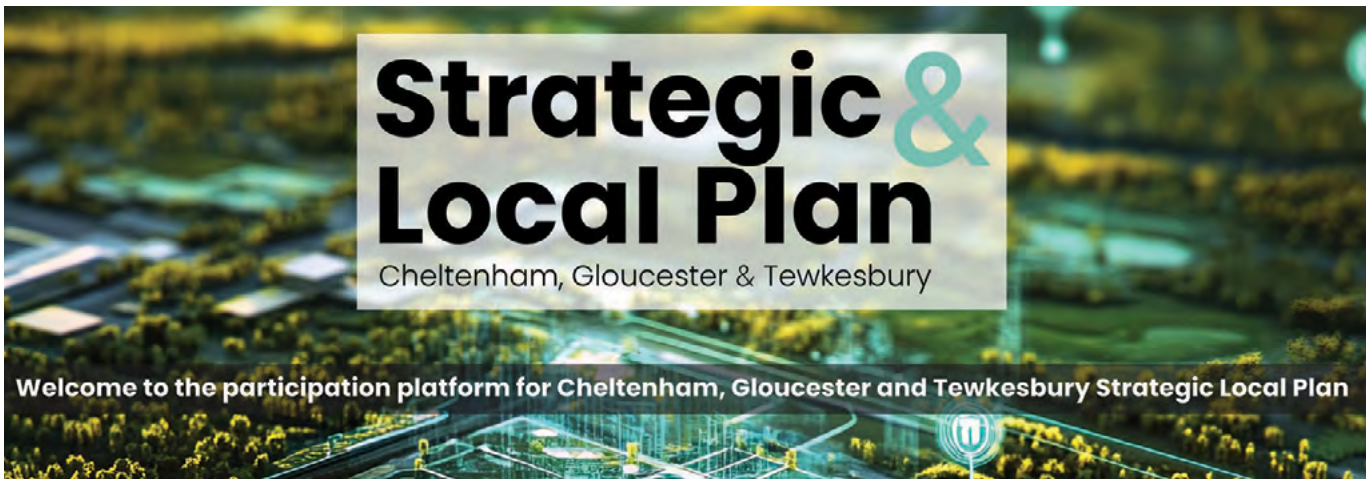
Recent contributions include bird boxes and a bench for Go Wild in Ashleworth, a reflective garden and flood relief path at the church, and planned improvements at Woodies and the church.

Another fantastic example was the purchase of the village's disused red phone box for £1. It now hosts a community book exchange, maintained by the local WI, who meet monthly at AMH.

Looking ahead

Ashleworth Hub's Christmas lights are a festive highlight, but the biggest event is the Ashleworth Village Show each September. Held at the Woodpeckers Sports Ground, it's a classic country show with children's art, giant vegetables, flower displays, and entertainment for all ages. Proceeds support local groups, charities, and the church.

For more news and updates, visit:
ashleworthinfo.com



Residents, businesses, and community groups across Cheltenham Borough, Gloucester City and Tewkesbury Borough can see and comment on new research, in a second phase of engagement with the Strategic and Local Plan (SLP).

The latest phase of engagement, launched in October, offers everyone the chance to learn and help shape how their communities grow and evolve over the next 20 years.

This new engagement builds on the feedback gathered during 2024, which saw over 1,000 people take part. That input has helped inform the next stage of the plan, and now the councils are asking for views once again.

What is the SLP?

The Strategic and Local Plan is a shared development plan which is being created by Cheltenham Borough, Gloucester City and Tewkesbury Borough councils.

It will guide decisions on:

- Planning new homes - deciding where homes should go and what types are needed
- Boosting jobs and growth - creating the right conditions for local businesses to thrive
- Revitalising town centres - making them vibrant, welcoming hubs for our communities

- Improving infrastructure - from roads and cycle paths to flood protection and green spaces
- Putting nature first - making climate action and biodiversity central to our plans.

“The SLP will shape how our area grows, and it’s essential that it reflects the needs and priorities of our communities, whilst protecting the natural and historic environment. That’s why we’re encouraging everyone to get involved and share their views.”

Alistair Cunningham, Chief Executive of Tewkesbury Borough Council and Senior Responsible Owner for the SLP

What’s happening now?

Visit the dedicated SLP website to read a series of research papers, some of which are designed to raise awareness, while others invite direct feedback. Each paper is open for comment for six weeks, giving people plenty of time to read, reflect, and respond.

Workshops are also being held with targeted groups, to gather feedback from those involved in housing and economic development.

How to get involved

The engagement will run until June 2026, with the draft plan due for pre-submission to government in July 2026, and final submission expected in October/November 2026. Once submitted, the plan will be publicly examined, offering another opportunity for people to have their say.

Visit strategiclocalplan.org to explore the latest papers, find out results from the last phase of engagement and sign up for notifications.

SLP Design Code - give your views

As part of the SLP, the three councils are also creating a design code for new development, as required by government.

The code will be a set of simple rules to show how good design should look and feel, and how it supports community wellbeing and the environment.

Share your feedback by 2 January 2026.

Visit: strategiclocalplan.org

Local Government reorganisation shaping Gloucestershire's future

As we continue to prepare for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and devolution in Gloucestershire, all seven councils across the county - including Tewkesbury Borough Council - are working together to shape the future of local services for generations to come.

In November 2025, each council formally debated and decided which of three proposed unitary models they supported. These decisions fed into a final submission to central government, which was submitted on 28 November, as part of the national programme to simplify local government structures and devolve more powers to local areas.

The government's plan involves two major changes:

- **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR):** The current two-tier system – comprising Gloucestershire County Council and six district councils – will be replaced by one or more unitary authorities. These new councils will deliver all local services, from waste collection to social care, under a single structure.
- **Devolution:** More powers and funding will be transferred from Westminster to local areas, enabling decisions to be made closer to the communities they affect. This includes the creation of a strategic authority, likely led by a directly elected mayor, which will oversee multiple county areas.

Future →
Gloucestershire



The three unitary options

Following months of collaboration, engagement, and analysis, three unitary models have emerged as the leading options for Gloucestershire's LGR future:

① Single county-wide unitary authority

This model would replace all seven existing councils with one unified council serving the entire county.

② East-west split model

This proposal divides the county into two unitary authorities:

- East Gloucestershire: Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, and Cotswold.
- West Gloucestershire: Gloucester, Forest of Dean, and Stroud.

③ Greater Gloucester model

This option proposes:

- A Greater Gloucester unitary authority, expanding the city's boundaries to include parts of neighbouring districts.
- A second unitary covering the rest of the county.



tion and devolution:

Recent developments and next steps

At the time of going to print, the formal meetings held by Gloucestershire's councils - including Tewkesbury Borough Council - to discuss and vote on the councillors preferred unitary option had not taken place. To read more about the neighbourhood modelling, financial and economic benefits and challenges for each proposal and the latest updates on LGR in Gloucestershire visit, futuregloucestershire.org.uk.

“While LGR has been imposed by government, it offers us an opportunity to rethink how local government works in Gloucestershire. As part of this transition, we will want to ensure services are designed in a way that are more efficient, quicker to respond, but that still feel local to the people who use them. LGR presents a real opportunity to modernise how we deliver services and make them more responsive to the needs of our communities. A final LGR proposal was also submitted to the government on 28 November. The government will now assess the proposal against its criteria, which includes population size, service efficiency, financial sustainability, and local identity. This process will include a public consultation, expected to take place in early 2026.”

Councillor Richard Stanley, Leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council

The government will be taking views on the proposals submitted and will make a decision on which best meets their criteria, with a government-run consultation likely to be in the early part of 2026.

When approved, the new unitary structure will come into effect no earlier than April 2028.

What does this mean for you?

While the structural changes may seem complex, the goal is simple: to deliver better, more efficient services that are tailored to the needs of Gloucestershire's communities.

“By streamlining structures and working more strategically, we can improve efficiency, reduce duplication, and ensure that every pound spent delivers maximum value to our residents and businesses.”

LGR is about building a stronger, more resilient Gloucestershire – one that's better equipped to meet future challenges and support local people.”

Councillor Stewart Dove, Lead Member for Finance and Asset Management

To stay up to date, visit the dedicated Future Gloucestershire website:

futuregloucestershire.org.uk



Tewkesbury Borough Business Voice Network

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH BUSINESS VOICE

Tewkesbury Borough Business Voice Network (TBBVN) brings local businesses together to share ideas, overcome challenges, and drive economic growth and innovation across the borough.

In partnership with Tewkesbury Borough Council and Tewkesbury Growth Hub, the network's core values are 'connect, communicate and collaborate.'

Katie Power, Growth and Enterprise Manager at Tewkesbury Borough Council, explained:

"We bring local businesses together for meaningful conversations, uncovering fresh insights into their growth needs - helping us further shape the support we offer. Each session offers the chance to connect, explore new opportunities and promote their businesses."

The 2025/26 programme is in full swing, with over 30 businesses attending each event to hear from guest speakers and put questions to experts from a range of sectors.

"TBBVN goes beyond networking; it helps build partnerships that spark innovation and growth, enabling businesses to thrive and boosting our local economy – all supported by our borough council and growth hub."



Councillor Sarah Hands, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Planning and Place Making

Find out more, visit: [linkedin.com/company/tewkesbury-borough-business-voice-network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/tewkesbury-borough-business-voice-network)

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- 🪑 Seats up to ten people

- 💬 Free business support available
- 📺 Whiteboard & interactive screen
- 📶 Free WiFi
- 🚗 Free on-site parking
- ✅ Other room sizes available

GET IN TOUCH:

- 📞 01684 272 073
- ✉️ tewkesbury@thegrowthhub.biz
- 📍 Tewkesbury Growth Hub
Gloucester Road
Tewkesbury, GL20 5TT

Photo: Yohan Paulin from Perfect Fabrications Ltd

The Growth Hub Tewkesbury

your destination for business support

Local welding business set to double turnover with smart investment and expert help

Perfect Fabrications Ltd, a local specialist welding and metalwork company, is set to double its turnover after getting expert advice and investing in new manufacturing equipment.

The company, started in 2016 by engineer Yohan Paulin, makes high-quality metal parts for many different industries.

Even with a highly skilled team, the company was finding growth difficult, due to the limitations of its existing equipment and lack of business development resources.

With guidance and support from the Growth Hub's Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing (AEM) advisors, Steve and James, the business was able to secure funding from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) to invest in two new powerful machines: a CNC Plasma Cutting Table and Hydraulic Press Brake Folding Machine.

These upgrades made a big difference, saving around 180 hours of work each year, which can now be used to grow the business.

The company expects to increase its turnover by 65 to 100 per cent and has already hired a new team member. Yohan Paulin, Founder of Perfect Fabrications, said:

“This investment has been a game-changer. With the support of AEM advisors through The Growth Hub Tewkesbury, we’ve not only improved our manufacturing capabilities but also laid the foundation for sustainable growth and job creation.”

Need help growing your engineering or manufacturing business?

If you run an advanced engineering or business in Tewkesbury Borough, free expert advice is available until 31 March 2026.

Book a free one-hour session with our AEM advisors, who are specialists in improving manufacturing operations. This support is funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and offered through The Growth Hub Tewkesbury.

To qualify, your business must have growth potential and be willing to allocate one hour for expert advice.



Photo: Steve Sleath and James Whyley, Growth Hub AEM advisors

Get in touch with the Growth Hub:
thegrowthhub.biz/tewkesbury

Recycle your real Christmas tree

Start the year sustainably by recycling your real Christmas tree at one of 12 borough sites. Garden Waste Club members can use their brown bin – please remove decorations, cut the tree to fit, and make sure the lid is closed.

Bishop's Cleeve

Webbs Garden Centre
Evesham Road, GL50 4SJ

Brockworth

Brockworth British Garden Centre
Shurdington Road, GL3 4PU

Churchdown

GL3 Community Hub
Cheltenham Road East,
GL3 1HX

Down Hatherley

Norton Garden Centre
Tewkesbury Road, GL2 9PU

Gloucester

Over Farm
Over, GL2 8DB

Gotherington

Nurseries
Gretton Road, GL52 9QY

Shurdington

Greenway Nurseries
Shurdington Road, GL51 4TT

Primrose Vale

Shurdington Road, Bentham.
GL51 4UA

The Dawn Nurseries and Garden Centre

Shurdington Road, GL51 4UD

Staverton

Dundry Nurseries
Bamfurlong Lane, GL51 6SL

Tewkesbury

Tewkesbury Garden Centre
The Mythe, GL20 6EB

Pamington Farm
Pamington, GL20 8LX



Longfield Hospice will be treecycling in Tewkesbury Borough from 10 to 13 January 2026. Book your Christmas tree collection at just-helping.org.uk/register-tree



Waste and recycling unwrapped

Collection day changes

This festive season, recycle right. Try the scrunch test: crumple your wrapping paper - if it stays scrunched, it's recyclable, if it springs back, it's not. Try to avoid glitter and plastic-coated paper - they can't be recycled. Put card, glass, plastics and cartons in your blue bin. Drop food scraps in your caddy.

To order a free food caddy, check your festive bin collection dates or find out how and what to recycle, visit tewkesbury.gov.uk/recycling

For repair, reuse or disposal tips, visit: gloucestershirerecycle.com/waste-wizard

Small on waste big on recycling

"We're encouraging the whole borough to support our campaign 'small on waste, big on recycling.' Cllr Murray Stewart, Lead Member for Environmental Services, explains:

"Our blue recycling bins are widely used by many residents, which is fantastic – but it's surprising how much recyclable material still ends up in green waste bins. Around a quarter is food, and nearly another quarter is plastic, paper, and card – all of which could be recycled.

"To tackle this, we've made a few changes. We've introduced slimmer general waste bins for residents moving to new-build properties and residents asking for replacement bins. We want to encourage smarter sorting and remind residents that they can ask for an extra blue co-mingling recycling bin or food caddies – free of charge.

"It's a small change with big potential. By helping residents recycle more and waste less, we're supporting everyday choices that protect our environment. By preventing waste, reusing what we can, and recycling more, we save valuable resources and cut harmful emissions."



Photo: Councillor Murray Stewart, Lead Member for Environment Services showcasing a slimmer waste bin, a recycling bin and food caddies.

Growing together: How Twyning and Norton are digging into community gardening

Something exciting is growing in Twyning and Norton, and it's not just vegetables!

In Twyning, a small group of residents has been working together for around a year, growing their own fruit and vegetables in a community garden. They've created a space where they can meet and plant, weed, water and care for the crops. Their goal is to grow everything organically, using natural methods that are kind to the earth and produce fantastic results.

One of their secret ingredients is alpaca poo. Known as 'black gold,' it's a fantastic natural fertiliser, and it comes from the alpacas that live right next to the garden.

The group is proud to be feeding themselves with fresh, healthy food. When they have extra, they share it with others in the community - either for free or for a small cost.



Photo: Twyning with Cllr Cate Cody, with community gardener Helen and the other volunteers.

Meanwhile, the family at Norton Court Farm is starting a new chapter. After years of nature-friendly dairy and beef farming, they're building a farm that's good for people, animals and the planet.

The Norton Growing Space will begin to take shape in 2026, offering allotment plots for individuals and community groups, as well as shared fruit trees and a polytunnel for growing plants all year round.

The aim is to create a place where people can grow food together, regenerating soil and community, and help nature thrive.

The Norton Growing Space is working with The Growth Hub Tewkesbury to explore funding opportunities and connect with similar local projects for shared support and ideas.

"Ventures in Twyning and Norton are leading the way in community growing. Both the group and the business have some terrific ideas, passion and momentum and are growing stronger every month. I have visited both and was so impressed with the work that they are doing; we are certainly proud to have them in our borough."

Councillor Cate Cody, Lead Member for Climate and Ecology

Norton: nortoncourtfarm.co.uk | Twyning, email: helenreynolds66@yahoo.com
The Growth Hub Tewkesbury, visit: thegrowthhub.biz/tewkesbury

Innsworth Community Hall: a welcoming space for all

The community hall at Innsworth is back as a vibrant hub, thanks to local sports charity Sportily, which took on the lease earlier this year.

With funding from Tewkesbury Borough Council, via local developers' contributions, the hall has been transformed into a modern studio with underfloor heating, air conditioning, a sprung floor, mirrors, and a sound system and a friendly café, ideal for a wide range of activities; the hall

is also available to hire for local groups and events.

Chris Priddy, co-CEO at Sportily, shared his excitement:

"We're thrilled to have created our wonderful new studio. It's already hosting many classes, and we have exciting plans for more. Thanks to our partners for helping make it happen."

Councillor Alex Hegenbarth, Lead Member for Community and Housing, said:

"It's fantastic to see the hall open again and making a real difference in the community."



Visit innsworthhall.co.uk

Photo: Parent and baby pilates



Engall Castle Ltd, established in 2009, remains a proud family business known for its customer-focused, professional, and friendly service, backed by local expertise.

Our goal has been and continues to redefine the estate agency experience by prioritising transparency, honesty, discretion, and helpfulness, rather than targets or commissions. This approach ensures top-notch service for every seller and buyer, regardless of their budget. We work on behalf of sellers to ensure a smooth sales transaction whilst achieving the very best selling price that we can.

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We are committed to continually improving our business in Tewkesbury and the surrounding villages, so whether you're selling, buying, or seeking advice, contact us for a friendly and confidential chat or ask for a free market valuation.

We promise not to harass you with follow-up calls and look forward to assisting you in the future.

*Wendy, Tom, Elisha,
Lucy & Steve*

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Winchcombe Day Centre

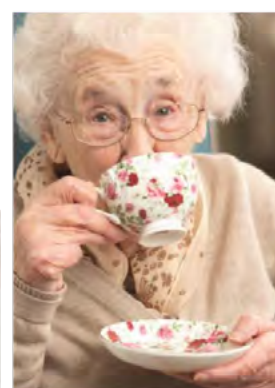
A welcoming day centre which provides care and support, while promoting independence for older members of the community.



Based in Winchcombe, we are a unique place where members socialise in an inclusive environment.

Each Monday, Wednesday and Thursday we offer our members:

- activities ranging from health and wellbeing, art, music and imaginative topical events
- a hot, two-course lunch
- celebration of key events
- friendship and support



To find out more about becoming a member, or to enquire about our Memory Café, please call 01242 603207 or email enquiries@winchcombedaycentre.co.uk

www.winchcombedaycentre.co.uk

Visit our
MEMORY CAFÉ

Every other Friday
from 10.30am until 12.00pm

A safe and supportive meeting
place for anyone affected
by dementia.

Focus on youth Homelessness



Across the UK, the main reason* young people under the age of 25 become homeless is because their family or friends can no longer give them a place to stay.

The pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis has made these problems worse, putting even more young people at risk.

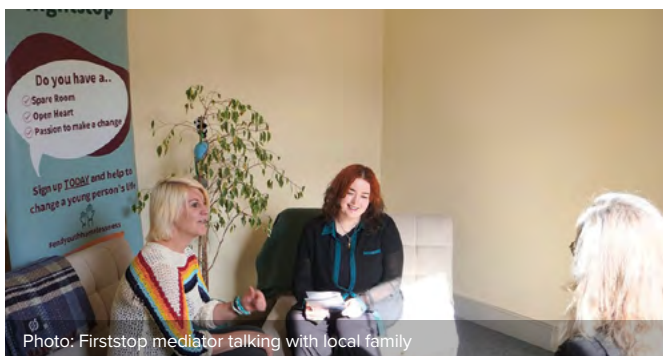


Photo: Firststop mediator talking with local family

“We’re working hard to prevent youth homelessness in our borough. That’s why we’ve teamed up with local charity Gloucestershire Nightstop to launch ‘Firststop’ - a family mediation service designed to help young people stay safe and avoid losing their home.

Most young people who become homeless say it’s because of family arguments. Firststop gives families the chance to talk things through before a crisis happens.”

Councillor Alex Hegenbarth, Lead Member for Community and Housing

Worried about family problems leading to homelessness for a young person?

Firststop can help

Firststop helps young people aged 16 to 25 talk things through with their families. It offers a safe space to work through difficulties, make a plan to support everyone’s needs, and prevent a crisis. If a young person does need to leave home, the family mediator will support families to make sure the move is done with support and care.

They also work with professionals across Tewkesbury Borough to spot problems early and prevent homelessness before it happens.

Firststop is part of Gloucestershire Nightstop, working with Tewkesbury Borough Council to support young people and families.

If you’re a young person, a parent, or someone who works with young people and you need support with housing, please get in touch with Tewkesbury Borough Council’s Housing Advice team:

Email firststop@teewkesbury.gov.uk
Telephone **01684 295010**

For information about Firststop or to make a referral, visit: gloucestershirenightstop.org.uk/firststop

* Information from Centrepoin, the UK’s leading youth homelessness charity.

Proudly supporting our armed forces community

Whether you’re currently serving, have served in the regular or reserve forces, or are a family member of someone who has, we are here to support you.

As a signatory of the Armed Forces Covenant, a promise by the nation, the council is committed to ensuring fair treatment for its armed forces personnel, veterans, and their families.

Practical support is available, including help with the cost of living and housing advice, so that no one faces a disadvantage due to their service.

The dedicated webpages also offer helpful information about employment and training opportunities; veterans’ travel cards; and support for adjusting to civilian life, as well as local and national armed forces and veterans’ support groups and services.



Visit: teewkesbury.gov.uk/armed-forces

Bringing a bold new vision to the Roses Theatre

Tewkesbury's much-loved Roses Theatre is entering a new era under the leadership of Derek Bond, an Olivier award-winning director, with a powerful vision to place the theatre at the very heart of the borough's community life.

Bond, who officially started his post as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director in September, grew up in Evesham and remembers visiting The Roses as a boy. Now, he's eager to offer similar opportunities to young people today.

"I want every primary and secondary school in Tewkesbury to have the chance to come to our theatre," he says. "Theatre-going should be a right, and we're making The Roses the most welcoming space possible, right at the heart of our community."

"Culture brings people together and gives towns energy. For every £1 spent on a ticket, £1.40 is spent in the wider local economy. When we put on a great show in our theatre, the high street and the whole town benefits."

The Roses is strengthening its community focus to create more opportunities for local people to explore their creativity and take part in performances.

There are also plans for a new family summer show to bring professionals and the community together, and for the theatre to play a greater role in supporting borough-wide events and festivals.



"The Roses is already a brilliant community hub."

Now it's about reaching further - being part of the fabric of everyday life in Tewkesbury Borough. Theatres make places vibrant and we want everyone to be a part of that."

Expect to see exciting changes at The Roses in 2026, and plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Visit: [roses theatre.org](https://www.roses theatre.org)

Photo: Derek Bond, CEO of the Roses Theatre

Access for all: a community effort in Tewkesbury

A new community-led group, the Tewkesbury Access Forum, is working to help make the borough more accessible for disabled people and those with prams or buggies.

Founded in April 2025, the forum brings together people with lived experience of disability to identify barriers in public spaces and encourage practical change.

One of its first goals is to create an accessibility leaflet for Tewkesbury town centre, available from the Church Street Visitor Centre from 2026.

The group meets bi-monthly at the Roses Theatre to review and give feedback. It has plans to expand across the borough, supporting shops, restaurants,

hospitality and public services, and to become more inclusive. Elizabeth Peché, founder, said:

"I wanted to help others who were struggling to enjoy our beautiful town. Historic buildings are part of Tewkesbury's charm, and thoughtful adaptations can make them accessible to all. When access is limited, people may go elsewhere, so it's vital to find a balance between character and inclusivity."

Councillor Richard Stanley, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development, added:

"Accessible spaces benefit everyone and help build vibrant communities."

We encourage local businesses to get involved."

To learn more or get involved, email tewkesburyaccessforum@gmail.com or search Facebook for 'Tewkesbury Access Forum.'



Photo: Megan Dunsford and Elizabeth Peché of Tewkesbury Access Forum

Shaping Garden Communities

Tewkesbury Borough is growing quickly in both its economy and population.

The council's Garden Communities team is committed to creating a sustainable place that meets the needs of the growing population. The borough is required to provide over 12,000 new homes by 2043, and the team aims to ensure there is a matching provision of employment uses, education, roads capacity, sustainable travel and community facilities.

North Ashchurch Consortium planning application

Momentum is building as the North Ashchurch Consortium (a group of land owners and developers who are working together to deliver sustainable communities) has submitted its planning application; this also includes a framework masterplan for the wider northern area of the development.

The application is being reviewed by the borough council's planning team to determine if it complies with planning policy. Planners will assess the application using the Government's updated rules called the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF is a comprehensive guide for local planning authorities in England, detailing how they should approach planning decisions and policies sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied.

This sets out what 'good planning' looks like, including things such as sustainability and housing needs, whilst ensuring that green spaces are protected. If applications meet these conditions requirements, they are more likely to be approved. As part of this process, consultations are taking place with key partners including the Environment Agency, NHS, and education authorities.

Explore the plans

The proposals can be viewed directly on the consortium's website at northashchurch.com and the full planning application can be viewed on the council's planning portal, by searching for 'North Ashchurch' or using the application number 25/00490/OUT.

Feedback from consultees will also be available to view as it comes in.

Visit: tewkesbury.gov.uk/garden-communities



Photo: Artist's impression of the proposed new bridge, produced by the North Ashchurch Consortium

New access map for Ashchurch for Tewkesbury Railway Station

Earlier this year, the Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership (GOCR) teamed up with local partners to explore how residents and businesses use Ashchurch for Tewkesbury Railway Station.

The project encouraged feedback from young people through community events at Northway Skate Park and Tewkesbury RFC, thanks to funding from Great Western Railways (GWR). The events offered free bike repairs and police security tagging to promote safe and sustainable travel.

As a result of this work, a brand-new access map has been created to help people with their personal travel choices and access needs to and from the station. It's designed to be easy for everyone to use, whether going to work, school, or visiting to enjoy all that Tewkesbury has to offer.

It also shows which routes are suitable for people who may have accessibility needs.

To explore the access map and see how your journey can be improved, visit:

gloucestershirecommunityrail.org/access-maps

What's on

WINTER
2025



Every season has a wonderful range of events in Tewkesbury Borough. Discover more at visittewkesbury.info

December

Spectacle of Light

Until 30 December

The court of King Arthur. Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe.

spectacleoflight.co.uk/sudeley-castle



Jack and the Beanstalk

Until 3 Jan 2026

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury.

rosetheatre.org



Santa Express

20, 21, 22 and 23 December

Climb aboard for a festive train ride through the Cotswolds.

gwsr.com

Tewkesbury Town Band's Christmas Concert

14 December

7.30pm, the Roses Theatre.

rosetheatre.org

Winter Lights – Nadia Eide

15 December

7pm, Tewkesbury Abbey.

tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/whats-on

Carols by Candlelight

21 December

3pm, Tewkesbury Methodist Church, The Cross, Tewkesbury.

tewkesburymethodistchurch.org.uk



Mince Pie Specials

27 December to 1 January 2026

Onboard the GWSR.

gwsr.com/events/mincepie-special-2025

Sunday afternoon strolls in the lanes and alleys of historic Tewkesbury

28 December

2.30pm, Warder's Alley, Tewkesbury High Street.

£2.50 per person.

January

Two-hour guided battlefield walk

4 January

10am, meet by the gate into Abbey grounds from Abbey Car Park, Gander Lane, Tewkesbury.

tewkesbury.org.uk/the-battle

Sunday afternoon strolls in the lanes and alleys of historic Tewkesbury

11 and 25 January

2.30pm, Warder's Alley, Tewkesbury High Street.

£2.50 per person.

tewkesbury.org.uk

Model Funfair Extravaganza

24 January

10.30am to 5pm, Dowty Sports and Social Club. Down Hatherley Lane, Staverton, GL2 9QH.

February

Two-hour guided battlefield walk

1 February

10am, meet by the gate into Abbey grounds from Abbey Car Park, Gander Lane, Tewkesbury.

tewkesbury.org.uk/the-battle



Tewkesbury CAMRA Winter Ales Festival

5 to 7 February

Watson Hall, Barton Street, Tewkesbury.

tewkesbury.camra.org.uk

Sunday afternoon strolls in the lanes and alleys of historic Tewkesbury

8 and 22 February

2.30pm, meet Warder's Alley, High Street, Tewkesbury.



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