

HOUSING NEWS



The six-monthly newsletter
for council tenants of Epping Forest District

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Welcome

To the latest edition of **Housing News** that lets you know what we've been doing, the challenges we have all faced, and information on the events held across the district to help improve your health and wellbeing.

A large number of our residents have received both of their COVID-19 vaccinations, and if you are 18 and over you can now arrange to have your vaccination at one of the many locations across the district. Thank you to all of those that have helped others during this pandemic.

We are committed to improving the housing estates that you live on and have launched our **More than Bricks and Mortar** scheme.

This issue also includes helpful information on how victims of domestic abuse can seek help and the J9 Training available to members of the community to help identify possible victims of this crime.

**Sign up
now**

Housing News online

Lots of our tenants have signed up to receive Housing News by email. If you haven't already subscribed, don't miss out, sign up now!

It's easy, just go to
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk
and search 'Housing News' or
scan this QR code and enter
your details to subscribe.



*Don't miss out.
Sign up now!*

LET'S
STOP
THE 
SPREAD

Epping residents receive COVID-19 vaccine

Epping Forest residents now have even more local choice of where to have their COVID-19 vaccinations as the programme gathers pace.

As well as regular sessions at St Margaret's Hospital, a large vaccination site opened at the Murray Hall Community Centre in Loughton at the beginning of March.

As of 3 June, 297,464 people had received their first and second doses of the COVID vaccine in West Essex.



Sharlene Mutyasira, 27, was among those delighted to be receiving their vaccine on the opening day.

Sharlene, who is among the priority group working in social care, lives in Chigwell said: *"I was teary-eyed when I came in because I was pretty anxious about having it. I have had lots of discussions with my friends about it because there has been a lot of misinformation going about around the vaccine. But I would say to everyone do your research, and it really is absolutely the right thing to have it."*

18 & OVER?
You can have
your jab

If you are **18 and over** find out how you can receive your vaccination, just visit the www.nhs.uk website or phone 119.

For the latest information visit essexcovidvaccine.nhs.uk/

Another helpful website is the [A Healthier Future website](#)

both websites have Frequently Asked Questions.

The Essex residents helpline is 0344 2573 961 9am-4pm.

Local rates apply.



Michael Lawrence, a digger driver from Waltham Abbey had come along with his wife, Sandra, for their vaccines said:

"The booking system was really easy, and it is really close to our home so we were happy to come here as soon as we got our letters and could book. COVID has affected our lives, as it has everyone, so getting this is the light at the end of the tunnel really and will hopefully mean we can see our children and grandchildren again."



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

The Covid-19 helpline number for Essex residents is 0344 2573 961 - 9am - 4pm.

www.nhs.uk

2021 Estate enhancements

& what's happening in 2021-2022

Every year the Council has a small budget to undertake environmental improvements on your housing estates. We work hard to generate additional income to increase this budget to help create great places to live.

Some of the improvements we carry out includes external lighting, fencing, planting of shrubs and bulbs and tree planting. For example in 2020-21, Housing Assets and Estate & Land Officers achieved the following estate enhancements:

- 1 x new football goal posts,
- 31 x new bin stores / improvements / keypads,
- 5 x large scale resurfacing of pathways,
- 6 x growing projects,
- 2 x solar light column installations,
- 4 x rotary line upgrades,
- 4 x jockey rails & bollards preventing damage to your green spaces,
- new secure cycle storage units (pilot) - (planning permission pending),
- roof installed on a bin store at Loughton Way, to prevent fly tipping.



What is next for 2021-2025?

More than Bricks and Mortar **Estate Improvement Scheme**

Will you work with us to make *your* estate a great place where people want to live?

The Council is excited to launch its new scheme, ***'More than Bricks and Mortar'***, specifically focusing on improving the look, feel and lived experience of our Council housing estates and creating great places where people want to live.

Residents are at the heart of the project, we will work with you on a range of estate enhancement initiatives, improving the areas important to you that benefit the community.

Whilst enhancements with a safer, cleaner, greener theme will be encouraged, other themes could include lighting projects, improved signage, health & wellbeing, or public art. All ideas will be considered provided the improvement enhances the look, feel and lived experience of your estate for the community.

We want to hear *your* views about what would improve your estate.

This is a great opportunity to get involved and make a real difference in your community.

If you would like to put forward ideas, then please email us at MTBM@eppingforestdc.gov.uk with ***"Call for Ideas"*** in the subject heading, or write to the Estate & Land Team at 63 The Broadway, Loughton, Essex, IG10 3SP.

Tell us why you think your idea will improve the look, feel or lived experience of your estate and how your estate community will benefit.

By sending your response you give us permission to analyse and include your response in our results.

If you have a passion to get involved and would like to help us shape future housing projects we would love to hear from you. Please contact our Resident Involvement Officer at getinvolved@eppingforestdc.gov.uk.

Housing & Communities Gardening collaboration projects



To celebrate the wealth of Community growing in 2021, the following projects will be mapped to show the engagement and journey of growth in Ongar and Waltham Abbey. Events will be arranged celebrating the health benefits of the gardening projects, including tours of the projects and food tasting extravaganzas.

Community Gardening Projects 2021

Ninefields Square Sensory Garden



- **Ninefields Square Sensory Garden:** Plants benefitting the community and atmospheric solar lighting (installed free of charge by our contractor Graceland). Hill House Primary School will create recycled flower displays for the official opening.
- **Greenyard and Paradise Road:** 90 rose bushes were planted.
- **Longfields Allotment:** The 2020 summer saw our Community Development Officer and volunteers work to develop this plot. A poly tunnel was bought to aid crops.
- **Shelley Shops:** Planters will be made for the green space nearby and our Community Development Officer will deliver engagement activities events.

Longfields Allotment



- **Cripsey Brook:** An area of overgrown land will be developed into a mindfulness meadow. Flowering pathways will lead visitors to seating areas to sit, reflect, enjoy the beautiful landscape or participate in the events promoting positive wellbeing. Ongar Primary School will be invited to be help in developing the project. There will be meadow seed grow packs for residents to 'grow their own' at home for planting in the meadow at a later date, for the community to enjoy.

Greenyard and Paradise Road



- **Theydon Bois - Greenglade:** Theydon Bois Parish Council donated rose bushes and spring flowering bulbs to brighten up the roundel at Greenglade.
- **Epping Forest District Museum Garden:** During lockdown our Community Development Officer gave tutorials over the phone to the project volunteers.
- **Sheltered Housing Schemes:** We worked with residents to create growing zones at Hyde Mead House (Nazeing) and Jubilee Court (Waltham Abbey).

Greenglade



- **North Weald Allotment:** The Town Council funding has enabled the development of this plot with the community taking over ownership. We will recruit a Community Champion to oversee the management of the plot and support those tending it.
- **Limes Farm, Chigwell:** Trees will be planted enhancing the look and feel of the estate as well as supporting biodiversity and climate change.

Limes Farm



Would you like to see a growing or planting project in an area near you?

Contact us at MTBM@eppingforest.dc.gov.uk, include "Growing Project" in the subject heading. Or write to the Estate and Land Team at 63 The Broadway, Loughton, Essex, IG10 3SP.



Monthly planting calendar

General tips	June	July
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep weeding, • Keep deadheading, • Install a waterbutt (if you have space) to save valuable rain water, • Place a small tray of water out for the birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rosa 'Albertine' salmon-pink fragrant double rose is a fast growing variety. A rambling rose perfect for training over an arch, pergola or on a large sunny wall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My top 3 drought tolerant plants: • Achillea: Pretty Belinda - flat pink flower clusters, fragrant fern foliage, • Yarrow: easy to grow perennial with blooms in a variety of shades. • Great for cut flowers and insects.
August	September	October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penstemon (campanulatus): foxglove-like flowers on evergreen foliage. Ideal plant for mixed borders that grows to a Height:1-2 ft, • Keep deadheading your flowers. Watering and feeding your hanging baskets to prolong their beauty, • If you are growing tomatoes encourage the fruit to swell and ripen by cutting off the growing tips so the energy is diverted to the fruit. Reduce side shoots too. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia Creepers are just beginning to turn orange and red, • Berberis thunbergii 'Rose Glow' the foliage turns scarlet with small fruits developing for the birds to enjoy during the winter, • Acer palmatum 'Fireglow' a great large pot plant showing off the scarlet leaves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant pot grown fruit, garlic cloves, and spring cabbages. • Move tender plants to a frost-free environment i.e. windowsill, cold frame or greenhouse, • Think soil. If it's heavy clay dig it over and the frosts in winter will help break it down, • Mulch under fruit trees and bushes with compost, woodchip or bark chippings.

Why not join our gardening sessions?

We are a team of volunteers helping to create a positive difference. We share our horticultural knowledge, make new friends while improving our health and wellbeing too. The weekly sessions are free. **No experience is required!** The sessions are held at:



Longfields Allotments

Tuesdays - 11am to 1pm at Abbots Drive Ninefields Waltham Abbey, EN9 3HH.



Epping Forest Museum Garden

Wednesdays - 2pm to 4pm at 39-41 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey EN9 1EL.



Cripsey Brook Meadow

Thursdays - 10.00am to 12pm at Cripsey Avenue, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0AU.



Wheelers Farm Allotment North Weald

Thursdays - 2pm to 4pm at Queens Road, CM16 6JQ.

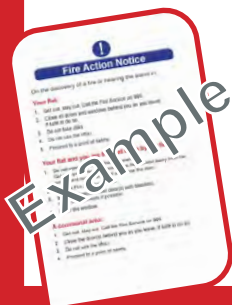
Contact Victoria by email vrobertson@eppingforestdc.gov.uk, to register your interest.

Fire safety – staying safe

As part of our commitment to fire safety we worked with Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to produce fire safety leaflets, which have been distributed to our tenants, giving advice and tips for keeping safe at home in the event of a fire. Please read your leaflet carefully. These are available to read on www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/housing/council-housing/fire-safety-in-council-homes/



If you live in one of our blocks of flats please familiarise yourself with the fire action notices erected in your block. More fire safety advice from the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service can be found on their website at www.essex-fire.gov.uk.



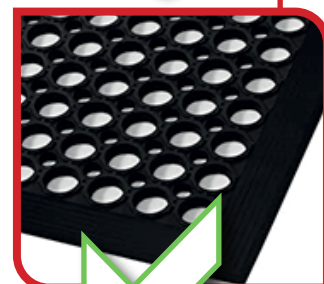
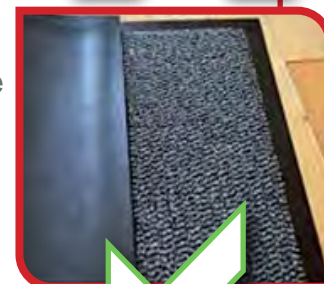
Communal areas and personal belongings

[The Council's Fire Safety Policy](#) sets out the principles and guidelines that the Council will apply to identify, assess and reduce these risks to ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Regular Fire risk assessments (FRAs) are carried out by the Council's Fire Safety Officer or by our Fire Safety Contractor to ensure that our flat blocks are clear and safe. Our FRAs sometimes identify residents storing personal belongings in communal areas and storing combustible items within 2 metres of the building. These items compromise fire safety and are stored in contravention of the Council's Fire Safety Policy (which can be accessed at www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Fire-safety-policy.pdf), section 16.3 of the Council's standard tenancy agreement and the Fifth Schedule of the Council's standard Lease Agreement.

As well as formal FRAs, Officers carry out regular audits of internal communal areas, checking that corridors, walkways, landings and exit routes (means of escape) are clear of personal belongings and that door mats which are permitted under the policy, are rubber backed with a chamfered edges as shown in the images below (all other mats must be removed).

Essentially, we want to keep you safe and the Council must ensure the emergency services can gain access when needed.



As your landlord we have a legal duty to keep our blocks of flats and their communal areas in a safe condition, free of fire risk. So a sterile zone around the envelope of the blocks of flats (at least 2 metres all around the building) will be enforced. **This means that there must not be any combustible material in the immediate area of the building, which includes in gardens, on balconies or in courtyards, whether these be communal or whether they form part of your tenancy. We can't do this alone and ask for your help with this.** Further, nothing is to be fixed to any external wall without first seeking permission from the Council.

We can't do this alone and ask for your help with this.

Disposing of personal belongings which have been inappropriately stored

In order to prevent possible sources of fire and to minimise the risk to our residents the following principles will be applied.

All internal and external communal areas are to be kept clear of all personal belongings so in the event of a fire, the primary escape route is clear of any obstructions or fuel for a fire.

- We will contact any resident who is using the communal area for storage and request that items are removed, by issue of a Notice.
- The Notice gives the owner time to remove the items themselves.
- If the goods are not removed within the allotted time, we will remove them under the TORTS (INTERFERENCE WITH GOODS) ACT 1977 SECTION 12 (1) AND SECTION 12 (3) and store for a maximum of seven days before disposing of them.

Fees and charges in respect of removal, storage and disposal of goods following a fire risk assessment are detailed here:

Please note that where Goods are claimed, owners are required to make their own transport arrangements to collect their Goods from our nearest available lock up facility, which may be some distance from your home. Goods will only be released to their owners once full payment of associated charges have been made.

Fee / Charge	Amount Payable
Attendance and removal	£79.00
Carpenter (if applicable)	£35.00
Storage	£57.96 per week
Disposal	Variable (subject to quotation + 15%)

Please refer to the [Fire Safety Policy](#) for full guidance on items permitted in communal areas.

Our Officers are always willing to provide advice and guidance if tenants / residents are unclear about the requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact the Estate & Land team if you are unsure on 01992 564186.

Waste and recycling

In December 2020, Cabinet approved recommendations to adopt a 5-year bin store replacement programme to help keep our estates cleaner, reduce fly tipping, increase recycling and help meet our objectives following the Council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council has built or modified 31 bin stores this financial year but we still have around 50 Housing sites where replacement bin / recycling stores are needed. The Council will invest £154K per year over the next 5 years to facilitate a programme of new and replacement bin / recycling stores. We are presently working on some new designs!

Why should I dispose of my rubbish responsibly?

The Council spent an additional £39K from the 2019/20 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (the income received from your rent, leasehold charges and service charges) on extra collections, picking up rubbish left on the floor (known as side waste) and removing bulky rubbish (furniture illegally dumped on housing estates or in communal bin areas). A similar amount is estimated to have been spent dealing with fly tipping by the end of the 2020/21 financial year.

The more we spend on dealing with rubbish, **the less money we have to spend on improving services on your estates.**

*Please help by disposing of **YOUR** rubbish responsibly. It really does help.*

Furniture, mattresses and other household items

Bulky items **MUST NOT** be left in the bin area or left outside the property, as this will be classed as fly tipping for which enforcement action could be taken. Increased expenditure on waste collection could increase service charges.

Bulky item collection can be booked via EFDC (www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/request-a-special-collection/) for a chargeable special collection (prices listed on the webpage). The cost depends on the number of items.

The items must only be placed out for collection on the morning of the collection. Alternatively, bulky items can be taken to the local civic amenity sites in Chigwell and Waltham Abbey. More information can be found at the Essex County Council website www.loveessex.org.



The Council's Environment Enforcement Team can investigate and take enforcement action against individuals where rubbish is not disposed of correctly. This can result in the people responsible receiving Notices. Failure to comply with those Notices may result in a fixed penalty of £60. If residents use the incorrect bins, or deposit waste in an area where they are not authorised to do

so they can receive a fixed penalty of £400 or be taken to court for fly tipping.

The Neighbourhoods Team may also take enforcement action against your tenancy or lease if our investigations show that one of our Tenants of Leaseholders is frequently fly tipping or not disposing of their rubbish correctly. Whilst we use a range of softer measures to encourage residents to manage their waste responsibly, more formal action is sometimes necessary for persistent offenders. Possible sanctions might include Community Protection Warnings, Community Protection Notices, Injunctions, but where absolutely necessary, Possession action or even Forfeiture of Leases could be considered.

If residents choose to use a private contractor to remove any waste, they should ensure that they check if they have a waste carriers licence from the Environment Agency, at environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers. If they do not, and their waste is fly tipped, they could receive a fixed penalty of £400 or be taken to court for not complying with their duty of care. A full list of what items can be placed in what container please visit the www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/what-goes-in-each-bin/ web page.

Confused about waste and recycling?

If you are not sure about what you should be doing with your rubbish or want to know what you can do to help, you should find this simple guide useful.

Personal bins

Black residual containers

Any waste that cannot be recycled should be placed in these containers such as nappies, cling film, crisp packets, tissues, food and drink pouches, expanded polystyrene.

Clear sacks

Plastic containers and bottles, clean paper, card and shredded paper, Tetra packs and other food cartons, food and drink cans as well as aerosol cans. Large cardboard boxes should be flattened and placed neatly next to sacks when they are put out for collection.

Electrical items, batteries and textiles

We collect small waste electrical items, low energy light bulbs, batteries, textiles and paired shoes every week. Put them in separate plastic carrier bags and leave them on top of your bin to be collected.

Blue box

- Clean glass bottles and jars: -
- all colours and clear,
 - lids can be kept on.

More information can be found at www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/

Communal bins

Black residual communal containers

Any waste that cannot be recycled should be placed in these containers such as nappies, cling film, tissues, crisp packets, food and drink pouches, expanded polystyrene.

Green lidded communal recycling container

Food and garden wastes only – all cooked and uncooked food. Food waste can either be wrapped in newspaper or biodegradable bags as highlighted on our website.

You should have all received your 5 litre green kitchen caddys, if you do not have one it can be easily ordered via the EFDC website www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/apply-for-a-new-bin/.

Yellow lidded communal recycling container

Clean glass bottles and jars – all colours and clear.
No tops or lids.

Red lidded communal recycling container

Plastic containers and bottles, clean paper, card and shredded paper, Tetra packs and other food cartons, food and drink cans as well as aerosol cans. Large cardboard boxes should be flattened and placed neatly next to the recycling container.

Get Involved!

Visit our facebook page
for the latest events and
opportunities to get involved

What's it all about?

www.facebook.com/Epping-Forest-District-Council-Resident-Involvement

Hello Residents!

My name is **Christina** and I've recently joined the Housing and Property Team as '**Resident Involvement Officer**'..... I'm here to make sure that we are talking to you about our services, policies and new development plans as these are formed. The Housing Team's aim is to create safe, affordable, decent homes; maintain our estates to excellent standards and improve the experience of living across the district.

Tenant and Leaseholder residents, we need you to tell us what we can do to make your estates wonderful places to live!

There are many different exciting projects running currently throughout the district ([see the Community Gardening projects article](#)), and all kinds of different ways you can be involved if you want to! It's a little introduction to local projects and district-wide plans that you can be involved in as much or as little as you want... please have a look around, and get in touch if you'd like further information – or with any great ideas you think of yourself!



Coming soon to a sofa near you...

Chatterbox!

This is one of our new ways we hope to meet you and hear your thoughts. An online, regular meet up with your Estate and Land Officer, held via Zoom in the comfort of your own home.

You can let us know what's going on in your estate, chat with your neighbours, and officers can answer questions or update you on plans – all in a friendly, informal atmosphere. We have recently trialled these in a number of areas, with some great feedback received from residents.

If you'd like us to arrange a Chatterbox session for your estate, just drop me a line!

We recently hosted our second district-wide 'Webinar' – with speakers from various EFDC Teams giving updates on issues and plans affecting the district as a whole. Viewers could watch the session and take part in a live Q&A with speakers. This and the previous webinar (held in January) are available to [watch online](#) if you missed them first time round... and if you'd like to register in advance for 'Webinar 3' (planned for late July) send an email to me and I'll send you an invite nearer the time.

The Housing Team has recently worked together with the Council's Community Health & Wellbeing Team, on a number of 'brightening up' projects on our estates, as requested by local residents. On the Limes Farm estate in Chigwell, we have installed a football goal to enable the use of a previously dis-used football pitch. On the

We can't wait to meet you!

Ninefields estate in Waltham Abbey, a new sensory garden has been planted, with fairy lights added to trees to create a calm and peaceful atmosphere. And in Shelley (Ongar) we have just installed some planters with fragrant herbs for residents to enjoy, nearby to the shops. We hope that residents will be helping us to transform the nearby meadow over the summer too! If you have any ideas for similar projects that could brighten up where you live, please do get in touch and let us know – **and *YOUR* estate could be next!**

Residents' Associations and Community Groups. There are a small but growing number of residents' associations and community groups in the district, who meet regularly and look for ways to improve their surroundings or add to the community spirit of an area. Contact me to see if there's already one in your area, or if you might like to start your own, I can provide information and support to help you get started.

I hope you've enjoyed hearing about some of the exciting projects already happening around the district, and that maybe it's inspired you to think about what we can do to make your estate a wonderful place to live!

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like more information about any of the projects I've mentioned, or with any great ideas you have for helping us to involve our residents even more – I'll look forward to hearing from you!

If you're a 'people' person and have some great ideas for other ways our team could engage with residents, then please contact me directly if you'd like to join our '**Resident Involvement Forum**'. This is a newly-formed group for EFDC tenants and leaseholders, who are helping us to explore new ways for our residents to be involved in the way their housing service is provided. Our first meeting was held via Zoom in April, with the next one planned for late June. We'll be asking for your ideas and views on all kinds of new projects, so if you have a couple of hours to spare and would be interested in this, **let me know!**

We're also in the early stages of planning some other '**focus groups**' to look at issues that affect all our tenants and leaseholders, such as repairs, sheltered housing, green spaces and so on.

If you have a particular passion for a subject that's relevant to tenants and leaseholders, then get in touch and let me know – this will help us to create the focus groups that our residents most want.

If you want to be part of any of the groups or events mentioned in these articles or would like to register in advance to take part in a Housing Webinar please

Contact me

GetInvolved@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/Epping-Forest-District-Council-Resident-Involvement

New charges introduced

Every year the Council reviews the housing fees and charges. Below are the new charges that took effect from April 2021. These fees cover our administrative costs for dealing with matters of a non-statutory nature, and our charges for the use of Council assets.

What are the new charges?

Applications for Front Garden Parking

There is now an admin fee of **£75.09 + VAT** when you apply for front garden parking. If you are a tenant living in a property owned by the Council, or an owner-occupier living in a property that was once owned by the Council, you **must** apply for permission from Housing to create front garden parking. Please visit our webpage for further information www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/housing/council-housing/vehicle-crossover-or-dropped-kerb/

Door entry Fobs and Suited keys

There are now new charges for replacement fobs.

You can now order these online

Keys

Replacement key - **£20.00**

Replacement Radar key - max charge of **£56.74**

Broken or defective keys - **free**



Fobs and suited keys

Replacement fobs for traditional door entry - **£20.00**

Replacement or additional fobs for new build accommodation - maximum charge of **£56.74**



Visit more information please visit the webpage

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/housing/council-housing/apply-for-a-replacement-key-fob.

Skip licences

Residents or skip hire companies need to apply to EFDC Council for a Skip Licence to place a skip on our Housing land. The admin fee is **£65** and the maximum duration is 1-2 weeks at a time.

Residents must ensure that they have the relevant permissions from the Highways Authority where appropriate. To apply for a skip licence please send an email to estateandland@eppingforestdc.gov.uk mailbox.

You will soon be able to apply online

For further information about any of the above articles please contact the Estate and Land Office on 01992 564186 or email estateandland@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Applications for Leaseholder Sublets

When the Council sells a flat or maisonette under the Right to Buy scheme the tenure of the property becomes Leasehold. These Leasehold properties are managed by the Freeholder (The Council). Recently, The Freeholder has experienced a large increase in requests by Leaseholders to sublet their property to a third party.

As of 1st April 2021 a registration the current standard fee for any devolution of dealing is **£100.80** (inclusive of VAT), but the actual cost to you will be as specified in line with the terms of your own individual lease agreement. fee will be applicable. If you intend to sublet your leasehold property you must complete the Sublet Registration Form.

For further information or to complete the online form please visit the www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/housing/leaseholders/sell-or-let/ or contact the homeownershipteam@eppingforestdc.gov.uk if you have any queries.

Right to Buy discount increase

The Right to Buy discount increased on 6 April 2021. The new maximum discounts for the financial year 2021/22 are:

London: £112,800

Outside London: £84,600

These discounts apply to applications served on the landlord by the tenant on or after 6 April 2021.

The discounts do not apply retrospectively to applications made before 6 April 2021.

To find out if you meet the criteria to buy your Council home please visit the www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/housing/council-housing/buy-your-council-house-right-to-buy/





The impact of Coronavirus on domestic abuse

The Coronavirus has prompted a huge surge in domestic abuse. The Home Office Affairs Committee reported the following increases in people seeking help and support from Domestic Abuse Support lines between April and December 2020.

Increase of: -

- 34% - National Domestic Abuse Helpline database
- 36% - National LGBT+ helpline run by Galop
- 50% - Calls from 16-24-year olds
- 79% - Karma Nirvana helpline (so-called 'honour-based' abuse)
- 39% - Respect helpline for male victims of domestic abuse
- 62% - Respect helpline for domestic abuse perpetrators seeking help to stop

Training sessions to help spot signs of domestic abuse and support those affected are available through the **Community J9 Domestic Abuse Initiative**.

J9 training is open to anyone in the community. The free, hour-long awareness raising sessions equip attendees with the tools to recognise abuse, respond appropriately and help people access the support they need.

After completing the training attendees receive access to an online J9 information pack and the ability to give access to this informative pack via the SETDAB website to anyone that would benefit from local and national support services, and what help people are entitled to.

Abusers isolate their victims making it difficult, if not impossible, to seek help. By empowering members of the community to know how to react we can ensure that more people have access to the help they need.

The J9 initiative is named in memory of Janine Mundy, who was killed by her estranged husband whilst he was on Police bail. It was started by her family and the local police in Cambourne, Cornwall, where she lived and aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse and assist victims to access help and support. J9 remain in contact with her family who give their full support.

**If you would like to attend a
J9 training session or
would like more information
please contact:**

j9community@outlook.com

Sanctuary Scheme

A new service developed by Epping Forest District Council's Community Resilience and Homelessness teams aims to help domestic abuse victims feel safer in their homes.

The work is carried out by Safe Partnerships and is available to residents that have reported they are a victim of domestic abuse to a professional organisation (e.g. Police, Social Care, or a domestic abuse advisory service) and are living in the Epping Forest District. **Referrals to frontline can only be made by one of these practitioners and not directly by members of the public.** Once the professional organisation makes the referral to Frontline, the Council's **Sanctuary Scheme** which is jointly funded by EFDC and Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership will assess which appropriate support package is required.

The service is free to victims and there are two support packages:-

Basic Security: -

- Two locking points, door chain and viewer to the front door;
- Three locking points to back and side doors;
- Ground floor window locks;
- Locking devices to upstairs windows that give access from extensions etc.

• Basic Plus: -

- All of the above plus Birmingham/London bar (strengthens door frames against forced attacks);
- Double locking night latch;
- Personal safety alarm;
- Property marking kit.
- Segment timer for interior lighting.

"Last year calls to the National Domestic Abuse Helpline database increased by 34 per cent and figures for LGBT, honour-based and male abuse increased significantly too,"

said Holly Whitbread, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing.

"Under our new scheme all applicants will be contacted by the EFDC Homelessness Team before a referral for works is made."

For more information about who to report domestic abuse to contact the: -

- **Police**, phone 101 if non urgent and general advice. Call 999 if your life is in danger,
- Community Safety Team or your Housing Officer - 01992 564000, or
- The Citizens Advice Bureau www.citizensadviceefd.org.uk

citizens
advice

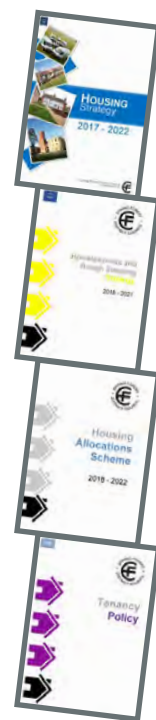
Policy updates

Tenancy Policy

This year the Council will be reviewing and updating its main housing related strategies and policies, and hosting a variety of face to face and online consultation events throughout the summer and autumn of 2021.

The consultation events will give individual residents, resident groups, and other organisations with an interest in Housing in EFDC the opportunity to have their say on a wide range of issues including:

- **The Overarching Housing Strategy**
How the Council plans to meet the housing needs and aspirations of its current and future residents over five years, between 2022-2027.
- **The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy**
How the Council plans to help tackle homelessness or the risk of homelessness, and how it aims to end rough sleeping.
- **The Allocations Scheme**
The rules for joining the Council's Housing Register, and receiving an offer of a Council or Housing Association home to rent.
- **The Tenancy Policy**
The rules for deciding what type of tenancy should be granted to an applicant on the Housing Register who has been offered a home to rent.



To find out if there is a Residents Group in your area please email getinvolved@eppingforestdc.gov.uk or

Call **07801 597204** or **01992 564524**

Rough Sleeping

On the 26th March 2020, the Government asked local authorities in England to make sure that they offered emergency accommodation to all rough sleepers in order to protect them and the wider public from Covid-19. This scheme was called the **“Everyone In”** initiative and was deemed a **“landmark moment”**.

In response to this directive, Epping Forest District Council’s Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Team worked extremely hard to facilitate this challenge. We identified a rough sleeping champion within our team to lead on this work ensuring a holistic approach by working closely with Chess our commissioned rough sleeping service within Epping Forest District. Regular work groups were set up to ensure awareness, action plans and discussion took place frequently. 24 rough sleepers were subsequently provided with emergency accommodation and of those, 12 were supported into permanent

tenancies, 2 returned to live with their families, 4 are still within emergency accommodation awaiting offers and the remaining 6 have lost contact but have not been reported to be rough sleeping again. This is a fantastic achievement and a real testament to the collaborative approach and effort of our teams.

Unfortunately, rough sleeping doesn’t end there though. If you see someone sleeping rough, the best thing you can do to support them is to report it via www.streetlink.org.uk. This will enable an Outreach Worker to conduct a visit to their sleep site, try to engage with them and offer the support they need. Volunteering and donating to local homelessness charities is also an effective way to help those sleeping rough and by signposting them to the professional agencies who are equipped to deal with these situations as quickly as possible, such as the local authority, can have a huge impact on someone’s life.



Climate Emergency

Epping Forest District Council is one of around 230 local authorities in the UK that have declared a Climate Emergency.

But, what can we all do as District community to help?

The Climate Emergency declaration acknowledges that we are in a situation where serious consequences are likely from climate change effects and special action must be taken to limit the anticipated damage.

Evidence has shown that Earth's temperature is rising due to an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere emitted from human activities such as burning fossil fuels, landfill waste and deforestation. This has and continues to produce negative effects with local impacts predicted to be increased flooding, water stress and overheating.

It can be difficult to see how one person or household can make a

difference. But everything we do has an impact on greenhouse gas emissions from how we heat our homes, our travel choices, what we do with waste, to what we eat.

Therefore, each and every one of us can do something to help the Climate Emergency. Action to reduce our emissions can seem like self-sacrifice but by living more efficiently and reducing consumption other benefits can be realised such as saving money and leading a healthier lifestyle.

As a first step to reducing emissions, you can find out more about your own impact and start conversations with friends, family and colleagues to raise awareness of how we can all help combat climate change.

The **WWF Footprint Calculator** is a handy quiz to understand your impact and future newsletters will contain quick tips on what you can do to reduce emissions in various aspects of life.



The Community, Culture & Wellbeing Team

CCW is a team of EFDC staff here to help boost health and wellbeing across the district, reduce isolation and provide a varied sports, recreation and culture programme for residents.

Regular activities

Active Living	Pilates	Street Athletics
Chair Yoga	Trampolining	Walking Football
Life Walks	Wildcats Football	Strength & Balance
Keep Fit	Football v Fat	Walking in Nature
Boxing	Street Tennis	Cycling for Health



Check out the '[what's on](#)' page for the latest information on the Museum's events and exhibitions. Here's what's happening in the summer of 2021:

The Boys: Holocaust Survivors in the Epping Forest District

17 May - 4 September 2021

This free exhibition tells the story of Holocaust survivors sent to Holmehurst Hostel in Loughton and the staff that supported them.



Individuals and organisations across the district working together to develop our dementia friendly community. For further info or to join the Epping Forest DAA contact Laura at lcleverley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk, or call 07548 145 652 or join the page at www.facebook.com/EppingForestDAA

The Epping Forest Inclusion Project

runs a variety of events for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).



EPPING FOREST

Inclusion Project

If parents / carers want to help shape the service they can get involved in the Parent Forum.

For the latest news 'like' and 'follow' their [EppingForestDisabilityForum](#) facebook page. Or send an email to wfordham@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Summer Holiday Activity Brochure

The full brochure of activities will be available online from June 2021.

Inside you will find lots of exciting things to do throughout the school holidays.

As ever, there is a wide range of activity days, family workshops, children's shows and multi-sport activity sessions.

[Facebook.com/EFDCcommunities](https://www.facebook.com/EFDCcommunities)

book online from 14th June

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/

Most of the activities can be booked online via eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com/ or by phone 01992 564 226 Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm.

Contact details

Council rent and other tenancy issues

Rent

- **Income Recovery Team** - 01992 564 545
incomerecovery@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Estate and Land

- **Estate and Land Team** - 01992 564 186
estateandland@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Tenancy

- **Neighbourhoods Team** - 01992 564 765
neighbourhoods@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Buying your home from the Council

- **Home Ownership Team** - 01992 564 428
homeownershipteam@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Finances

- **Communities Finance Team** - 01992 564 429
communitiesfinance@eppingforestdc.gov.uk
- **Housing Benefits Team** - 01992 564 155
benefits@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Moving home with the Council

- **Rehousing Team**
 - Allocations - 01992 564 716
 - Homelessness - 01992 564 165
rehousing@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Repairs and maintenance

- **Housing Assets Team** - 01992 564 203
propertyassets@eppingforestdc.gov.uk
- **Repairs - Qualis** 0333 230 0464 (24-hour number) repairs@qualismanagement.co.uk

Other departments in housing

- **Tenant Involvement Officer** - 01992 564 524
involvetenants@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

- **Community Safety Team** - 01992 564 000
safercommunities@eppingforestdc.gov.uk
- **Older People's Services**
Epping Forest District Council,
2 Parsonage Court, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BB
0208 532 1065 (24-hour answerphone)
olderpeopleservice@eppingforestdc.gov.uk
- **Complaints**
Complete the online form -
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/your-council/complaints-compliments-and-complaints;
or phone 01992 564 000.
- **EFDC COVID Helpline**
01992 564 000
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/coronavirus

Other useful numbers

- **Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)**
Epping Forest District CAB offers free confidential, impartial advice.
03444 770 808 Option 7
(Mon - Fri 10:00 to 16:00)
www.citizensadviceefd.org.uk
 - Epping: Ernest Wythes House,
50a Hemnall Street, Epping CM16 4LS
 - Loughton: Loughton Library (1st floor),
Trapps Hill, Loughton IG10 1HD
 - Waltham Abbey: Town Hall,
Highbridge Street, Waltham Abbey EN9 1DE
- **Essex County Council (ECC)**
County Hall, Market Road,
Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH
0845 743 0430 www.essex.gov.uk
 - Care for children: 0845 603 7627
 - Care for adults: 0845 603 7630
 - 24-hour protection line: 0845 606 1212

citizens
advice



For alternative formats of this newsletter please contact us at
housinginfo@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Epping Forest District Council,
Civic Offices, High Street, Epping,
Essex CM16 4BZ.
01992 564 000 (option 3)
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/housing

 **Epping Forest
District Council**
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk