It’s all happening in the town centre

Energise Barnsley

August saw the launch of Energise Barnsley - an exciting new scheme to install solar panels onto approximately 5,000 council houses and council-owned buildings across the borough. Energise Barnsley is part of a community energy partnership between the council, Berneslai Homes, British Gas and Generation Community. It will see the council work with social enterprises and a blue chip installer to feed the money generated by the scheme back into Barnsley communities.

You’re invited to invest in Energise Barnsley, through a community share offer, which is likely to give an annual return of five per cent. Find out more about the project at www.barnsley.gov.uk/energisebarnsley

Have you seen our new website?

We’ve recently launched a new look website so you can use council services online. The new site makes it easier for you to find information, apply for a service, pay a bill or report something to us. You’ll also be able to find out what’s going on across the borough with lots of information about upcoming events and attractions. Take a look at the new site www.barnsley.gov.uk

You can tell us what you think about our website by emailing online@barnsley.gov.uk

Have YOU CLICKED YET?

Junction 36 – a new business hub

“We couldn’t imagine life without our adopted twins” page 2

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We’ve seen the open market relocated into the town centre precinct, the deconstruction of the former Zero Ice building, and the first piece of demolition when Kendray Street Bridge was removed in just one day. A time lapse video of the demolition is available on our YouTube site at www.youtube.com/user/BarnsleyMBC

Hoardings showing the redevelopment plans are now in place in the town centre and by Christmas the demolition of the Central Offices building will be complete, changing the skyline of Barnsley forever and creating space for a new temporary market building, due to open in spring next year. A design for the three year temporary market has been submitted for planning approval.

All the concrete created by the demolition will be 100 per cent recycled into construction material for re-use in and around Barnsley.

Barnsley is set to become a revitalised town - keep up with the redevelopments by signing up to the weekly Better Barnsley newsletter at www.barnsley.gov.uk/betterbarnsley
Monday 19 to Sunday 25 October is National Adoption Week. We'll be marking the event on social media, highlighting the need for more adoptive parents to come forward, particularly for sibling groups and older children.

Michael and Paul Atwal-Brice are two parents who opened their home and their hearts to adopt identical twin boys seven years ago. They adopted Levi and Lucas when they were two years old and since then, family life has brought challenges along with many rewards. The twins have autism and epilepsy so dads Michael and Paul have had to learn about their conditions and the kind of support and special adaptations they require.

While raising two children with disabilities isn’t easy, Michael explains why they’d encourage people to consider adopting children with additional needs: “We know disability is sometimes daunting, and some children awaiting adoption may have issues that require specialist knowledge. It’s a great idea to go along to one of the information evenings and ask questions — find out what support is available and think about the difference you could make to a child’s life.”

Paul added: “Knowing the boys are happy and sharing wonderful experiences together makes all the hard work worthwhile. We enjoy things like bike rides using the boys’ specially adapted bicycles. They have a great sense of fun which we love to see. Every one of their achievements is a proud moment for us all, and we couldn’t imagine life without them!”

The fostering team is on the lookout for foster carers who can look after children aged ten and upwards. It’s a common misconception that older children are more difficult to look after; foster parents of older children need to be prepared for specific issues but our carers tell us that the rewards are enormous. A good sense of humour, patience and flexibility are essential; support and training will be provided.

If you think you could support an older child at a critical time in their life, and be a reliable and trustworthy foster parent we’d love to hear from you!

You can find out more about fostering in Barnsley on Facebook and www.barnsley.gov.uk/fostering

FosteringBarnsley
@FosterAdoptBMBc

We’re delighted to be involved in a scheme that trains and aims to keep the best social workers as part of the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership. Social workers work with people and families, offering guidance and support to help them improve their lives and directing them to services they might need.

With new funding, Barnsley will deliver high quality training for social work students and qualified practitioners in children’s and adults’ services. Social workers will be trained to be confident in their roles, able to handle the more stressful elements of the job and well-equipped to support people in the local area.
Eco show home now open for visitors

As part of the Better Homes Barnsley scheme, a show home has been designed to show the benefits of external wall insulation, which include a warmer home and lower energy bills. The property at 33 Pindar Oaks Cottages in Kendray has been fitted with external wall, cavity wall and flat roof insulation, plus high performance external doors.

Watch an interview with the resident and landlord of the property at www.betterhomesyorkshire.co.uk

If you’re interested in finding out more about insulating your home, you can drop into the Better Homes Barnsley pop-up shop on Cheapside on Monday 21 September between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

Under the Better Homes Barnsley scheme funding is available for installation of central heating systems in qualifying households. You could be eligible for assistance if your property isn’t connected to the gas network and you don’t have a central heating system installed.

Contact the Housing and Energy team on 01226 772798 for further details. Applications must be received before Wednesday 30 September 2015.

More information about the scheme is available at www.betterhomesyorkshire.co.uk/barnsley

Planning permission granted for Goldthorpe School

Barnsley Council has granted planning permission for a new primary school for Goldthorpe, subject to a number of planning conditions.

The £4.28m school will be an important catalyst for the regeneration of Goldthorpe, replacing the current primary school on the corner of Doncaster Road and High Street.

The outline design and planning approval was initially secured by the team at NPS Barnsley, before the scheme was then fully developed by Robertson Construction. The new school is due for completion next year.

A makeover for Cannon Hall Museum, Park and Gardens

Over £2.8m of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund has been secured for the restoration of Cannon Hall Park and Gardens, including areas such as the ice-house, gardeners’ cottages, the walled garden and greenhouses. The ice house has already been opened up and surveyed – for the first time in decades.

Work will also be done to dredge and restore the lakes in the park. The project is currently in its development phase and surveyors and other specialists are carrying out detailed planning work.

Friends of Cannon Hall have raised £15,800 towards the HLF parks for people project so far. The money donated is crucial match funding for the round one development stage and a vital contribution to the scheme.

Many local people are involved in the project steering group and there will be lots of opportunities for the public to comment on the plans as things progress – watch out for special consultation events.

The community will also benefit from the project through apprenticeships, learning activities and volunteering programmes. You can support the project through volunteering or making a donation to the Friends of Cannon Hall. For more information visit www.cannon-hall.com

Junction 36 – a new business hub

Three of the new commercial units at the Gateway 36 development are well on their way to being ready for businesses to occupy from the end of January 2016. Gateway 36 is a new business park being developed by Harworth Estates, close to Junction 36 of the M1.

The units, which have already received a lot of interest, have been designed to meet the region’s rising demand for new industrial units of less than 30,000 sq. ft.

Harworth Estates will be developing the remaining part of its first phase later this year, including a new restaurant outlet, a hotel and a 75,000 sq. ft industrial unit.

The council’s Property Investment Fund (PIF), one of the flagship initiatives identified in the Barnsley Jobs and Business Plan, is supporting the development. The plan focuses on creating more jobs, an increased and stronger business base and an improved workforce.

Revolution @ Gateway 36 has the potential to create more than 450 new jobs and add £20m to the local economy. All occupiers will have access to comprehensive business support through the council’s experienced investment team, including free guidance on access to finance, recruitment and training, as well as the potential to receive business growth coaching from the nationally-recognised Enterprising Barnsley programme.

Find out more at www.barnsley.gov.uk
When someone dies, there are lots of things that need to be done - often at a distressing time when you least feel like doing them. One of those things includes contacting government departments and council services.

To make things a little easier, Barnsley’s registration service now offers the Tell Us Once scheme led by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). On registering a death you’ll be given a unique Tell Us Once reference number. After you’ve given a few more details online or over the telephone, they’ll be passed on to the relevant council services and government departments in one easy step – so you’ll only need to Tell Us Once.

To find out more about the service visit [www.barnsley.gov.uk/tellusonce](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/tellusonce)

Teenagers who’ve recently left school year 13, particularly those heading off to university, are being urged to take up a new vaccine to protect themselves against meningitis (inflammation of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning).

The MenACWY vaccine offers protection against these two illnesses that young people are susceptible to. All teenagers will be offered the vaccine, starting with teenagers of school year 13 (DOB 01/09/1996 – 31/08/1997).

If you’re leaving home for university, make sure you get the vaccine before you go, as you're at a higher risk of getting meningococcal disease. At university you’ll be mixing closely with lots of new people, some of whom may unknowingly carry the meningococcal bacteria.

All eligible teenagers will be contacted by their GP, so make sure you book an appointment as soon as possible. For more information about the vaccine visit [www.nhs.uk/vaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations)

Home Office

Microchipping for all dogs will become compulsory in April 2016. Dogs Trust, working in partnership with Barnsley Council’s Dog Warden Service, is offering free microchipping for dog owners in Barnsley. Sessions are running from 10am to 3pm at the following venues:

**Monday 21 September**
Football Pavilion, Birdwell Recreational Ground, Birdwell, S70 5TQ
(Entrance at side of 19 Rockingham Street)

**Monday 5 October**
Royston Pavilion, Off Midland Road, S71 4QJ

**Monday 9 November**
The Welfare Hall, Great Houghton, S72 0EG

**Tuesday 1 December**
St Johns Community Centre, Church Street, Penistone, S36 6AR

More information on the vaccine along with guidance on protecting your baby against MenB can be found by visiting [www.nhs.uk/vaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations)