

# PRESS RELEASE



**WOKINGHAM  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



**Town Hall  
Market Place  
Wokingham  
RG40 1AS  
Tel: 0118 978 3185**

**Contact: Andrea Jenkins,  
Wokingham Borough  
Council  
0118 974 6010**

**Contact: Jan Nowecki,  
Wokingham Town Council  
0118 978 3185**

**Heading: Market Place Improvements Get the Go Ahead**

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**When: June 2017 to March 2018**

**Where: Market Place**

## **What:**

As the hub of the town and the setting for our historic buildings and beautiful Town Hall our Market Place is about to receive a long awaited and well-deserved improvement. This is a £3.8m partnership project between Wokingham Borough and Town Councils. The new residential developments mean the town is experiencing considerable growth but with this comes developer funding and both councils have agreed to use this to benefit the whole community and ensure that the heart of the town is improved for everyone to enjoy.

### ***Why are we doing this?***

- Tired, cluttered, disjointed and uneven space
- Poor quality, slippery surface and significant tree root damage causing trip hazards and localized flooding
- Challenging for people with access difficulties
- Improve Rose Street junction
- Dangerous bus lane
- Limited facilities for the market or events

### ***What will you see?***

- Level, high quality, natural stone surfacing
- Flexible space to allow the market to thrive and grow
- Improved space for our many community events
- Better utilities for the market and events
- Continental-style space for restaurants, coffee shops and pubs
- Beautiful semi-mature trees, planted in pits to allow healthy growth
- Designed to slow down traffic
- Additional disabled parking with some short-stay evening parking
- Dedicated loading bays to reduce congestion
- Removal of the bus lane
- Parking restrictions to be enforced
- Additional courtesy crossings for pedestrians
- Comfortable bench seating to relax and enjoy the sunshine
- Feature lighting for trees and Town Hall
- Inclusive access for all

### ***When is it happening?***

- Work onsite begins in June 2017
- Completion end of March 2018
- Work undertaken in phases with businesses accessible throughout
- Wokingham town centre remains very much open for business

### ***Want to keep up to date?***

The following will be regularly updated:

Wokingham Town Council Website – [www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk)

Wokingham Borough Council website – [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)

Wokingham Information Centre and Notice Boards at the Town Hall

Wokingham Town Council social media:

 /wokinghamtowncouncil

 @wokingham\_TC

Wokingham Borough Council social media:

 /Wokinghamboroughcouncil

 @wokinghamBC

For queries:

[wokingham.environmental.improvements@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:wokingham.environmental.improvements@wokingham.gov.uk)

Wokingham Information Centre and Notice Boards at the Town Hall

***Want to speak to someone?***

Jan Nowecki, Wokingham Town Council, Town Clerk – 0118 978 3185

Wokingham Town Council Information Centre – 0118 978 3185 Monday – Friday 10-2pm, Saturday 10-3pm

**Quotes:**

**Wokingham Town Mayor Cllr Gwynneth Hewetson commented:**

‘Our newly refurbished Market Place will be a fantastic heart of the town where we can all enjoy sunshine, coffee, food and entertainment and I am looking forward to sharing it with you. You will see a lovely new space, paved with beautiful natural York Stone, more even with trees in proper tree pits: a Market Place that provides a beautiful setting for our Town Hall and all the heritage buildings that frame it. Wokingham is one of the best places in the country to live and this improvement will make it even better. In the meantime let’s all support our businesses in town while we work to make the new space a reality.’

**WBC:**

**Josie Wragg, interim director of environment said:**

“This scheme demonstrates great partnership working with Wokingham Town Council. We’re well underway with our plans to regenerate the town centre, and it’s important that Market Place, the heart of our town, is redesigned and opened up to its full potential.

“Some 13,000 homes will be built in our Borough by 2026, with Wokingham taking its vast share. The town is growing and we need to have the facilities in

place to support our communities. The scheme will bring real benefits to both residents, traders and businesses alike, and is being funded in the main by developer contributions.”

## About WTC

Vision: To encourage the life and vibrancy of Wokingham Town for its existing and future residents and businesses.

Wokingham Town Council comprises twenty-five councillors who represent the four wards of the town: Emmbrook, Evendons, Norreys and Wescott.

The Town Councillors are elected every four years. Each year the Council elects one of their members to be the Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council.

The Council delegates much of its business to the following committees:

- **Amenities:** Responsible for the Council's facilities such as parks, allotments, buildings, markets, and playgrounds
- **Arts & Culture:** Encourages, supports and, in conjunction with other organisations, delivers artistic and cultural events to users of the town centre.
- **Civic Advisory:** Makes decisions on matters relating to the Mayor's Civic involvement with the Town Council. These include Civic Events such as Civic Awards, Mayoral Town Twinning visits and the honorary staff members.
- **Finance & General Purposes:** Controls the finances and general administration of the Council. This committee also administers the allocation of grants to local charities and community projects.
- **Planning & Transportation:** This committee acts as a consultative body on Planning Applications, Development Proposals and Transport issues.

The Full Council meets at least six times a year. Council meetings are open to the public. The agendas and minutes can be found on the Town Council's web site at [www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk).

For general information please telephone the Town Council on 0118 978 3185.

**For more information, please visit [www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk)**