

A great place to live!

Bracknell Forest Council Conservatives

Community Report

This community report highlights the things your local Conservatives have delivered for you since 2015.

The borough



of opportunity

- Bracknell Town
- Binfield Parish
- Crowthorne Parish
- Sandhurst Town
- Warfield Parish
- Winkfield Parish

Check out the facts at www.bracknellforestconservatives.co.uk

The Lexicon

Delivered!



In 2015 local Conservatives presented you with a clear and costed manifesto. We are reporting back to you on how we did with delivering our pledges. We hope this will help you judge our performance when we ask for your support again in May.

If you voted conservative in 2015 this end-of-term report highlights just some of the things your vote helped deliver.

You can find out a lot more by going to www.bracknellforestconservatives.co.uk

Clearly the most significant achievement has been the Bracknell Town Centre redevelopment, making The Lexicon at Bracknell a great place to live, work, shop and eat.

It has been your local Conservatives who have stayed committed to the development of the town centre, when others criticised, we stood firm.

16 million visitors in the first year can't be wrong!

"It makes me proud to live here."

"I couldn't believe it was Bracknell"

We've done a lot more than that!

Let's not forget Coral Reef.



We closed the doors and started construction in June of 2016. The restoration and enhancement was completed and opened in September 2017.

What about all our great parks? Then there's King Academy.



You are never more than a short walk from fantastic parks, open spaces and leisure facilities.



A modern state-of-the-art through school in Binfield. Part of the on-going commitment to supporting good schools.

Local Conservatives delivering for local people

Recognising commitment and dedication

The last 4 years has seen amazing changes in how your local council is funded, structured and measured. To meet reduced central funding we have had to make changes. To help us continue the high quality services we asked everyone to help either by changing the way you engage with, and use the council's services, or changing your lifestyle so you didn't need council services at all. **THANK YOU.**

It is also important to recognise the skill and dedication of council and partners staff who work to deliver the policies set by the Conservative led administration. **THANK YOU.**

To everyone who volunteers whether with a group or organisation or as a carer. **THANK YOU.**

Strong financial management

We have maintained Council Tax at the lowest possible rate and we are still one of the lowest rates in the country.

We have totally transformed the way the council works and saved £11.6m of your money. We are now delivering more for less.

We have invested your money wisely so that the income from our investments has helped ensure we can maintain services to the high standard you expect.



We never forget it's your money.

We have reduced the financial burden that things we own have on the Bracknell Forest purse by selling, leasing or contracting them out.

The future of Easthampstead Park Conference Centre has been secured. It will become a hotel and conference centre, but the council has retained a say in its future.

We created a new partnership with Everyone Active to run Coral Reef Water world, Downshire Golf Course and Bracknell Leisure Centre - which has already seen a £2.8m improvement plan of the leisure centre started.



Easthampstead Park Conference Centre

We reduced costs further by closing Easthampstead House (the old council offices) and transferring everyone to Time Square. At the same time we enabled the old building to be reused to house a small business development centre.

We ensured that the council had money set aside for any surprises. Other local parties had criticised us for doing this. If we had listened to them your council would have run out of money. When the government funding was reduced we were able to adjust to "life on less" without the need to cut essential services.

We introduced a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) that gets money from the development of every qualifying house built in the area for use on providing much needed infrastructure.

Keeping Bracknell Forest prosperous

We delivered The Lexicon, when others said we couldn't! Only the Conservatives stayed true to the promise we made to have "A town centre fit for the 21st Century". We did not stop there, we have gone on to encourage more regeneration, promoting Princess Square and The Deck.

We promised to limit the effect of Labour's mismanagement of our economy and the period of austerity it caused. We now have the highest employment levels IN THE COUNTRY. We worked closely with local employers, to retain them, and we encourage new businesses to come here.

With more people working from home and greater use of online services we secured superfast broadband.

The economic security of the borough depends on us having a strong Local Plan so that we have the right employment spaces and the right houses in the right place. We completed a local plan and are now preparing a new one to take us through to 2036.

We have secured government funding for major road improvement schemes to keep traffic moving, and make Bracknell Forest a great place to live and work.



Coral Reef roundabout replaced.

Caring for you and your family

Health and care services have had to change in recent times. Your council and local NHS and GP services now work more closely together.

We have reduced the waiting time for a care bed when discharged from hospital.

We have maintained our position as one of the healthiest places in the country to live.

We have changed the way people are assessed for support, by looking first at all the positive things they can do, so the right support can be provided.

We have increased the number of people receiving their care funding directly so that they can choose and buy the care they want.

We have reduced the cost of social care, at the same time broadening the range of things available, to support people of all ages.



Caring for all family members

We have introduced a community map where you can find out about all the organisations that can help you or your loved ones. Check out "Bracknell Forest Help Yourself" or one of the new interactive kiosks being installed at locations in the borough if you do not have access to the internet at home.

We have focused on services to reduce loneliness and isolation.

We have invested in and enhanced our children's centres to make them a hub for more family focused support such as health, social services, special needs and parenting help.

Our self help and illness prevention services have been very successful and reduced the number of people needing health and care services.

We have introduced an innovative way to support people with a learning disability, autism and dementia using Lexi, our animal assistance dog.



A highly regarded and well used Urgent Care Centre.

Supporting your children and young people to reach their full potential.

We have built The Kings Academy School in Binfield a new combined primary and secondary school.

We have ensured the right number of school places have been available.

We have a very high percentage of parents getting their first choice school for their children.

Our schools have achieved improved examination results.

We have invested in our support to schools which has helped raise standards.

There are more children attending good or better schools than at any time in the last decade; with no schools in special measures.

We are not responsible for school funding but we have supported schools with £1m extra help. Governors are responsible for school performance and we have provided them with excellent support and training opportunities.



Clean, green and safe

You tell us one of the reasons you love living here is because you are always close to open spaces, great walks and open countryside. We have continued to invest in the things you love.

The borough's parks and open spaces have been maintained and enhanced. Our parks continue to win coveted Green Flag awards.

We have secured the future of our cherished leisure facilities. Coral Reef, Downshire Golf Club and the Bracknell Leisure Centre are all run by a specialist leisure firm.

We have maintained high rates of recycling and provided donations to local good causes. We have renewed our fleet of bin lorries to take advantage of future changes in waste and recycling.

Recorded crime has remained low.

Road traffic accidents are the lowest ever recorded.

We have introduced more efficient LED street lighting for greater safety, low running costs and low carbon footprint. You have helped identify where the initial installations need adjusting and we have a team dedicated to adjusting the lighting for local conditions.



What a great place to raise a family.

Bracknell Forest Council Conservatives

Community Report

Keeping Council Tax Low

Homes and home ownership

The need for more homes has not reduced in recent years, it has increased. We created a strong local plan to control where housing can go and to ensure the right infrastructure accompanied development. We began updating our plan in order to ensure our planning policies remain effective, and deliver the right housing in the right place, and protect our unique communities.

We have delivered affordable homes for people seeking the rented option and also those starting out on home ownership.

We have reduced the number of households needing homeless accommodation by using effective measures to help them avoid homelessness in the first place.

For those who do become homeless, we have created homeless accommodation in the borough, so that those in B&B do not have to travel to other areas. In 2015, we had 30 families in B&B outside the borough, at the beginning of 2019 there were 2.

We established Downshire Homes Limited as a company owned by the council that invests in properties for homeless families.

When we transferred our council homes to Bracknell Forest Homes (now Silva) we committed to providing 250 new affordable homes from the proceeds. We actually provided 487 families with an affordable home including low cost home ownership.



More families have the key to their own front door.

Strong communities

The 2017 residents survey said 90% of respondents indicated that they were satisfied with their local area as a place to live, This was an increase since 2014 (87%).

We have maintained support for our local community centres.

We have not closed any libraries. All our libraries have had investment to improve services and access times.



You tell us "it's great round here".



Investment in new technology.

government funding for local transport initiatives such as at Coral Reef on A322, the dualing of the A329 Downshire Way, and for the future A3095 improvements.

Working with organisations like Silva Homes we have provided 271 additional parking spaces.

We have introduced evening and Sunday Bus services on Council funded routes.

We have continued to recognise the need for maintaining each community's own identity and separation from each other within our local plan.

We continued to drive for improvements in the Reading to Waterloo train services and prevented the downgrading of Martins Heron station.

We have won over £20m in



Bus usage is up 6%.

CONSERVATIVES CONSULT

Local Conservatives are keen to ask what you think the most important local issues are. You can write to us at:

Bracknell Forest Conservatives, c/o 10 Milbanke Way, Bracknell, RG12 1RP.

Email us at: bca@bracknellconservatives.org.uk

or complete the online survey on: www.bracknellforestconservatives.co.uk