

Your Community Newsletter 2022



Foreword

Much to celebrate in challenging times

Politicians the world over will tell you that setting annual budgets is always a balancing act, having to make difficult decisions that will not be welcomed by all, while ensuring the hard-earned money of those they represent is spent in the fairest way to benefit the most people, and doing everything possible to protect our community and environment.

It is a challenging job, as there are always tough choices to make, particularly during the last couple of Covid-affected years. Now against the backdrop of a war, soaring inflation and just about everything else we need to pay for putting strain on our already stretched income, any budget has to be made with these pressures firmly in sight.

At our 2022-23 budget meeting in January, Douglas Council voted through a 3.8% increase in rates. I have no doubt that it would have been higher if we had not made prudent savings elsewhere. Given the increase in Energy from Waste and green waste disposal this included the necessary decision to move to a more streamlined waste collection service which would encourage the reduction of waste going to the energy from waste plant and into our recycling stream.

The move to alternating each week between recycling and standard waste collection services will save the Council around £25,000 a year. But more importantly, it is the right move environmentally and we will also be introducing a new garden waste collection service. We are a partner of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man and are committed to strengthening our green credentials. I appreciate that the way in which Douglas Ratepayers found out about this move was not ideal but I can assure you over the months ahead before these changes are implemented you will be provided with all the information, help and support you will need to make this move a success.

Elsewhere, there are always unforeseen circumstances to which we must respond; we are still counting the cost of the

significant storm damage to Marine Gardens on Douglas Promenade, which, for example, means we need to find £60,000 to repair the playground alone.

Although the Housing Service provided by the Council has no impact on the rate, it is a service that we are very proud of and one which has seen a great deal of positive change over the past three years. The completion of our Peel Road apartments scheme, in partnership with Dandara and the Department of Infrastructure, will deliver quality, energy-efficient, and affordable homes to those who need them. Our redevelopment of Willaston is now almost halfway through its 12-year programme and we are close to receiving final approval for the new apartments, which will provide an additional 48 homes for those in housing need. This complex project has been long in the planning but we are very much seeing light at the end of the tunnel.

Last summer's elections saw the Council become a more streamlined organisation, with a reduction from 18 to 12 members. This in itself has changed the dynamic of the Council and to which we are still adjusting. I was incredibly proud and honoured to be elected Council Leader and although it has brought about some tough situations, I am excited to be working with a group of individuals both Council Members and staff who only want what is best for the town and are working hard to make our ambitious dreams a reality. I believe your new Council has made a strong start over the last eight months, and I am confident that if we continue to work together we can continue to deliver the high level of service that the residents of Douglas expect and deserve.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate the uncertainty of what the months ahead will bring.

Councillor Claire Wells
Leader of Douglas Borough Council



Douglas Borough Council spending per person



Total council gross spending projected for 2022/23 is around £469 per head for every man, woman and child of the town's population. This figure includes:

		Per week
	£106 for waste services	£2.04
	£71 for parks, gardens and recreational facilities	£1.37
	£60 for asset management	£1.15
	£58 for loan repayments and interest	£1.12
	£43 for Energy from Waste Plant gate fees	£0.83
	£28 for public and decorative lighting	£0.54
	£19 for regulatory enforcement	£0.37
	£17 for cemeteries and crematorium	£0.33
	£14 for library	£0.27
	£5 for town centre management & public events	£0.10

The rates for a typical 3-bedroom house will be £543 per year, which equates to £10.44 per week (an increase of 38 pence per week from 2021/22).

Entertainment

Coming soon...

NEW Skate / Scooter Park & a Maze

Noble's Park is YOUR park!

Noble's Park is at the heart of our town, offering a wealth of outdoor community facilities all year round for all ages, as well as hosting family and community events.

An updated masterplan is currently being prepared with the Council continually investing in the park's facilities. The Splash

Zone – which has been extremely well received and saw further features installed last year - is due to open for the 2022 summer season on 29th April.

If you have any suggestions for what you would like to see in the park, please send them to parks@douglas.gov.im.



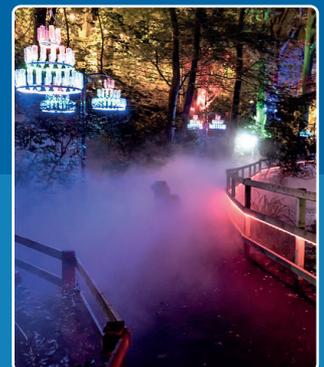
Summerhill Glen

Extended opening hours

August	7.30 - 10pm
September	7 - 10pm
October	6 - 10pm
November	5.30 - 10pm
December	4.30 - 10pm



January	5.30 - 10pm
February	6 - 10pm
March	7 - 10pm
April (up to 14th)	7.30 - 10pm





Basketball / five-a-side court

No booking just bring your ball

Outdoor exercise equipment



Dog Walking Area

Off leash

Skate park



Talk of The Town restaurant
Open all year

Football pitches

Available for hire

Bowling

crown and flat greens available

BBQ / Picnic Area

Bring your food and friends

Central Park Cafe

Seasonal opening

Tot Lot Toddler & Junior play area

BMX Track

Splash Park



Netball Courts

Available for hire



Table Tennis

Just bring your bat!

Lester's Yard



Lester's Yard in Ballaughton Park, an adventure playground offering a unique play experience delivered by charity Isle of Play in partnership with Douglas Borough Council.



Your recycling: Where it goes

 Material	 Where is it sent?	 What is it made into?
Aluminium Cans	Material re-processor, North of England	Aircraft parts & Car parts
Steel Cans	Metal Merchants on Island export	All sorts of products in the steel industry
Plastic-mixed bottles	Material re-processor, North of England	Drainage pipes, kitchen bins, more bottles
Glass	Merchant on Island	Crushed into sand and used in road surfacing on Island
Newspapers & Magazines	Paper Mill, North Wales	More newspaper
Brown Cardboard	Material re-processor, North of England	More brown cardboard

Waste information

The implementation of fortnightly collections is fundamentally an environmental sustainability policy, where the principal goal is to capture more recyclables from the household waste stream. The international community has long since committed to the reduction of waste and the associated greenhouse gas emissions from activities such as incineration, mineral extraction, raw mineral processing etc. The new service is not being implemented from April, which was incorrectly reported, but later this year which will allow the Council to undertake a comprehensive communication campaign with residents.

We will be providing advice and assistance over the coming months to all households, but for reassurance the plan is to commence garden waste collections around August time and a garden waste wheelie bin will be provided to all households who require one. Once the garden waste collection service is bedded in, we will move to fortnightly rubbish collections and carry out assessments of individual households with large waste capacity requirements. Additional recycling receptacles will be available to all households, so capacity in real terms will be the same.



Want to know more?

For all you need to know about recycling, bring banks and the kerbside collection service, visiting our recycling operation, requesting replacement boxes, finding out collection dates, or enquiring about education programmes, email recycling@douglas.gov.im, visit recyclenow.im or call **696445**.

You can also sign up for our Recycling Collection Reminders by visiting <http://www.recyclenow.im/when-is-my-pick-up/>



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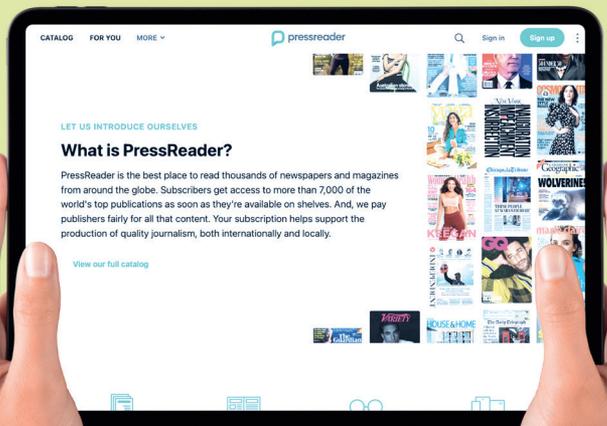
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7,000 of the world's top publications

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800 e-audiobooks

nearly 3,000 magazines



Dates for your diary

Sat 6th Aug

Noble's Park
Fun Day

Sun 13th Nov

Remembrance
Sunday service

Thu 2nd June

Beacon lighting
ceremony, in celebration
of the Queen's
Platinum Jubilee

Mon 6th June

D-Day
Commemoration service
on North Quay

Sun 10th July

Civic Sunday

Thu 24th Nov

The Greatest
Christmas
Show

Fri 4th Nov

Fireworks Display
sponsored by
Celton Manx

Bank Holiday Collections 2022/23

Bank Holiday 2022

Friday, 15 April (Good Friday)

Monday, 18 April (Easter Monday)

Monday, 2 May (Early May Bank Holiday)

Thursday, 2 June (Spring Bank Holiday)

Friday, 3 June (Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday)

Friday, 10 June (TT Bank Holiday)

Tuesday, 5 July (Tynwald Day)

Monday, 29 August (Summer Bank Holiday)

Amended collection date

Stays the same

Saturday 16 April

Saturday 30 April

Stays the same

Stays the same

Stays the same

Stays the same

Saturday 27 August

Keeping in touch

Visit douglas.gov.im, call 696300
or email enquiries@douglas.gov.im



We provide an online reporting service at www.reportit.im.

Here you can report any street scene issues such as graffiti, fly tipping, bin issues etc. These queries go direct to our service departments.

