

Citivism

News, features and updates about what's happening in the city

Winter 2022



• A personal message from Cllr George Duggins, Leader, Coventry City Council.

Dedicated teamwork

The Council's Children's Services accounts for one of the biggest areas of our work. You can read about what's been achieved by the dedicated team working in this area – rated as 'good' in a recent Ofsted inspection which is a remarkable transformation.

This isn't just down to our own colleagues but to the strength of our partnerships with other agencies.

Also, in this issue of Citivism, we explain about the festive events being planned – including the return of the Christmas Lights switch on, plus details of the Go CV app and a range of discounts for events and other local attractions.

We also explain how residents are helping us to tackle fly-tipping in the city, and how you can report any incidents to us anonymously.

Elsewhere, we have been cautioning private landlords, with our Housing Enforcement Team taking action to protect tenants if they are unfairly treated by their landlord.

Finally, in these tough times, when many of us hope to spend time with friends and family this Christmas, the impact of rising prices will hit people more than ever.

So, we've included some details of the help available from the Council and our partners on our website at coventry.gov.uk/costofliving

I'd like to wish you peace and joy at this time of year.

Written and designed by Coventry City Council's Communications Team.



Ofsted praises Coventry Children's Services with 'GOOD' rating

Coventry City Council's Children's Services have been rated as 'good' following an Ofsted inspection.

The inspection found that the Council services supporting some of the most vulnerable in the city had “improved in all areas” with all areas rated as “good.”

The report said:

“The voice of the child is important in Coventry and there is a strong participation offer that ensures that children's voices are heard and

listened to at all levels of the local authority.”

The strength in relationships between Coventry City Council and partner agencies such as health and the police was also a strong theme from the report.

Cllr Patricia Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said:

“We are delighted with the report from Ofsted. It shows the incredible amount of hard work and care that has gone into improving Children's

Services in the city from our own incredibly dedicated staff through to the wide-ranging partners we work with.

“Everyone should be proud of the achievements and the progress made, but this is not the end of our journey. The children and families in Coventry deserve the very best and we will continue to strive to improve to achieve ‘outstanding’ next time.”

The full report can be read online at reports.ofsted.gov.uk



Former Toy Museum to undergo refurb

An exciting project is underway to bring back to life a much-loved historic building in Coventry city centre – known for decades as the ‘Toy Museum’.



Pictured: L-R, Graham Tait (Historic Coventry Trust), Mandy Hall (Architectural Heritage Fund) and Cllr David Welsh (Coventry City Council)

Historic Coventry Trust has secured grants of £180,000 from Historic England and £100,000 from the Architectural Heritage Fund to start the next chapter in the history of Whitefriars’ Gate in Much Park Street.

The five-month restoration programme is part of a wider project to convert the the 14th Century building into bespoke visitor accommodation and office space.

Cllr David Welsh, Cabinet Member for Heritage at Coventry City Council, said: *“We have been working with Historic Coventry Trust on a number of projects, including Charterhouse, Drapers’ Hall and Lychgate Cottages and the standards of restoration work is excellent.*

“I’m sure with the same attention to detail the Trust will be able to breathe new life into Whitefriars’ Gate.”



Fly-tipping warning

Since the beginning of April, the street enforcement team has served 24 fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping offences. All of which have been paid.

Failure to pay fixed penalty will lead to prosecutions. When the street enforcement team follow up a report of fly-tipping they will always gather evidence from the items dumped.

Officers recently investigated a case in Humber Avenue where the people involved confirmed it was a mistake to leave the cardboard boxes by the bin and do accept it was their responsibility to ensure they disposed of their waste correctly and agreed to pay a fixed penalty notice.

Cllr Naeem Akhtar, Chair of the Council’s Scrutiny Co-ordination Cttee, and St Michael’s Ward Councillor, said:

“I’m really pleased that the work of enforcement officers is leading to fixed penalty fines.”

Cllr Abdul Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities at the Council, said:

“We are encouraging local people to report fly-tipping and to provide any evidence they can pass on.”

“We are successfully penalising people, but we need to keep on top of the problem, we can’t be complacent.”

Other examples of where fines have been issued include: Sewall Highway, Upper Stoke Crabmill Lane, Foleshill.

■ You can report fly-tipping incidents anonymously at coventry.gov.uk/flytipping or calling **0808 583 4333**.

■ Help on disposing of all unwanted items including bulky waste can be found on the website at coventry.gov.uk/bulkywaste

■ The Council works in partnership with Emmaus Coventry and Warwickshire and for a small charge, can collect bulky household waste.

■ Alternatively, you can get rid of these items yourself by taking them to the Household Recycling and Disposal Centre (the tip).

Coventry landlords issued with formal cautions

Coventry City Council has issued formal cautions to two local landlords who illegally evicted their tenants.

Both Landlords gave their tenants incorrect paperwork instructing them to leave their homes which the tenants believed was correct and therefore proceeded to leave.

In both cases the tenants contacted housing enforcement after presenting themselves as homeless. Neither landlord reinstated the tenant when invited to do so.

Coventry City Council’s Housing Enforcement and Property Licensing Team are keen to remind landlords that in order to legally evict tenants they must serve a valid notice to quit and then use this to obtain a possession order at court - anything other than this is likely to constitute a criminal offence.



Anyone who feels that they may be being illegally evicted or harassed by their landlord can contact the council at housingenforcement@coventry.gov.uk

Coventry
Winter
WONDERLAND

#explorec Coventry

Skate
into
Coventry
THIS WINTER!



Winter wonderland

Get your skates on and get ready to glide into the magical Winter Wonderland at the heart of Coventry City Centre.

From **Friday 25 November** to **Sunday 8 January**, Broadgate will be home to a festive ice rink and Winter Wonderland for residents and visitors to enjoy.

The ice rink will be **open seven days a week**, operating throughout the day and into the evening. Prices start from **£6.95** for **Go CV Plus card holders**, and **£10** for those **without cards**.

Coventry City Council is partnering with Visit Coventry and Coventry Business Improvement District (BID) to bring a festive experience to the city centre.



Coventry
Business Improvement District

Visit Coventry

To find out more and book tickets, visit www.visitcoventry.co.uk/skate



Go CV discount app now available for residents

The Go CV mobile app is now live and ready for people to download!

The app is part of the Go CV card scheme, which is a free scheme for residents of Coventry, and gives cardholders offers and

discounts to local attractions, events and activities. By downloading the new mobile app, residents can also gain

access to hundreds of money saving offers from local businesses.

To register for a Go CV card, visit go-cv.co.uk

To download the app, visit the App Store on an Apple device, or Play Store on an Android device and search 'Go CV'.



Panto season returns

Wednesday 23 November –
Saturday 7 January

This year, the Belgrade Theatre's legendary annual pantomime is back with a giant of a show, as Jack and the Beanstalk takes to the Main Stage.

Coventry's favourite panto duo, **Iain Lauchlan** and **Craig Hollingsworth** are back together this year for more magical mayhem, with Lauchlan playing Dame Trott and Hollingsworth as Dame

Trott's son, Simple Simon. Lauchlan also returns to write and direct Jack and the Beanstalk, which will be his 23rd Belgrade panto as the Dame.

Tickets are available to book online or by calling the Box Office on 024 7655 3055. Phone lines are open 10.30am-2pm, Mon-Sat.

FREE

Christmas
**LIGHTS
SWITCH
ON**

Coventry's annual Christmas lights switch on is back from 5.30-8pm on Tuesday 15 November, with an evening of magical festive entertainment taking place in the city centre.

The FREE Coventry City Council event, which takes place in Broadgate, will be hosted by BBC CWR. Those attending will see a stunning laser light show, mischievous Christmas elves, a visit from Santa Claus, and live entertainment from some of the city's talented performers.

Light rail project a step closer

The Coventry Very Light Rail Project has taken a major step forward as the Council and WMG, at the University of Warwick, launch a demo site for its light rail system.



Researchers and engineers at WMG have worked alongside track design experts at Ingerop to create, design and build the demo site, including the unique track system, which also enables rapid installation - minimising disruption to local properties and businesses. The track is significantly cheaper compared to current tram tracks. The vehicle itself is lightweight, and there will be no overhead power supply along the route. The site will be based at WMG.

Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, said:

"This new track test site is a key part of our work to demonstrate the viability of the breakthrough technology being used."

Coventry Very Light rail is being led by Coventry City Council and has received funding from the West Midlands Combined Authority, the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Coventry City Council.

Climate Change Board

The project is also supported by an Independent Climate Change Board made up of local businesses, public and community organisations which is driving forward changes to address Coventry's impact on climate change and the environment.

Margot James, Executive Chair for WMG at the University of Warwick, and former minister for culture, communications and creative industries, is the chair of the Coventry Climate Change Board. Margot said:

"Coventry's Climate Change Board is bringing together key city stakeholders to draw up a set of actions that will meet the carbon reduction targets set by the Council."

For more details visit coventry.gov.uk/climatechangeboard

To hear about the Climate Change Board visit coventry.gov.uk/ccbpodcast



Coventry first in UK to use new road reconstruction and recycling technique

Recycol, a new road reconstruction and recycling technique, is being rolled out in Coventry thanks to a partnership between Coventry City Council and Colas.

Coventry will be the first city in the UK to use the process, which involves using specialist equipment to recycle and regenerate the top surfaces of roads in a single pass, which means roads can be quickly repaired.

Cllr Patricia Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services, said:

"Not only will Recycol mean we can fix road surfaces faster and more economically, it's also better for the environment as it makes use of recycled materials, which helps reduce carbon emissions."



Thank you for litter pickers

Volunteer litter pickers who lend a helping hand in their neighbourhoods met together recently for a celebration event.

The Council organised a thank you gathering at Coventry Rugby Club for local litter picking groups in the city.

To get involved visit coventry.gov.uk/litter

West Midlands Bus On Demand is expanding

West Midlands Bus On Demand is a new flexible bus service where you choose the pick up location and time.

In 2023, Ring and Ride will join the West Midlands Bus on Demand family, creating a more efficient and reliable service with:

- 🕒 Longer service hours
- £ More payment options
- 📍 Travel across Coventry and the surrounding areas

SCAN ME TO



DOWNLOAD THE APP

If you are an existing user of either service, you will receive information on this shortly.

tfwm.org.uk/ondemand
0345 034 8670



Creative opportunity for young people



Arty Folks

can be contacted on:
074 436 436 34 or
info@arty-folks.org.uk

The Job Shop

can be contacted on:
024 7678 5740 or
jobshop@coventry.gov.uk

Coventry City Council has been awarded £10,000 in funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, which will be used to develop a new creative employability programme to support young people at The Job Shop.

The new programme, is in conjunction with Arty Folks an arts and mental health charity who offer a safe and relaxed space where people can have fun whilst exploring art activities which are focused, educational, creative and challenging.

Anyone between the ages of 16-29 can sign up to take part in the programme, which will see

weekly art workshops including painting, photography, and video.

CLlr Dr Kindy Sandhu, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, said:

"It's a wonderful programme for young people to be part of a range of artistic workshops and be mentored by some truly talented people, already working in the industry."

Christmas BIN COLLECTIONS

We will be collecting your household (green-lidded) and recycling (blue-lidded) bins over Christmas and the New Year with no change to scheduled collections.

Our crews will be working **Tuesday 27 December to Friday 30 December** and **Tuesday 3 January to Friday 6 January** so collections will follow your usual schedule without any changes.

To enable our crews to collect all of the extra waste generated over the festive period we will pause garden waste (brown-lidded) collections between **Friday 9 December and Tuesday 17 January 2023**



Caring approach to homeless people

A Coventry service that supports around 100 homeless people by providing temporary supported accommodation has raised £212 in a cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Pictured: Council officers Rob Hopkins, Gurmeet Sandhu, Emily Harley, Louise Spetch, and Karen Gannon along with James Cooper and Matty Scaife of P3.

P3 is a charity that works with individuals and families to offer support while in a temporary home. The service is a partnership managed by the Council which accommodates 86 single homeless people with an additional support need, including 10 female rooms, in Council venues across the city.

CLlr David Welsh, Cabinet Member responsible for Housing and Communities, said:

"I'd like to congratulate the team for taking the extra time and effort in raising money for charity, on top of the already great work they do."

If you know anyone who needs homelessness support, please visit coventry.gov.uk/homelessness

Go Foleshill sessions continue until end of year

Residents in Foleshill have been taking part in free sport and physical activity sessions called Go Foleshill thanks to a project delivered by Positive Youth Foundation, in partnership with Coventry City Council and West Midlands Combined Authority.

Successes from the Sport England funded project include cycling tuition, family guided cycling rides, female only swimming with accredited lifeguard training, community canal walks, a weekly community mile walk in local green spaces, fishing, canoeing and much more.

For details of more sessions visit positiveyouthfoundation.org/gofoleshill





Adult social care report

The latest Adult Social Care Annual Report 2021/22 has been published.

The report describes the performance of Adult Social Care and the progress made in Coventry against the priorities for the year. The report also includes

examples of the experiences of service users. It also explains the latest adult social care offer describing what people can expect when they contact the Council, how they can

participate in the Council's work, and useful links to information and advice.

Cllr Mal Mutton, Cabinet Member for Adult Services, said:

"We put the report together to help us reflect on where we have made improvements and where more work needs to be done."

"It also sets out what people can expect from our services – explained in our adult social care offer."

The report highlights the experiences of services users, and unpaid carers who have seen their caring roles intensify.

To read a copy of the report please visit www.coventry.gov.uk/ascannualreport

Information for Neurodivergent people

An e-booklet, aiming to improve the support available for a wide range of people who are either autistic, dyslexic or who are described as neurodivergent people has been published and is available at **dimensions.covwarkpt.nhs.uk**

The e-booklet has been co-produced with neurodivergent people, their families and professionals across Coventry and Warwickshire.



Vaccinations this winter

Coventry health and care partners are reminding residents to keep up to date with routine vaccinations, Covid-19 boosters and flu jabs.

It is important that vaccines are given on time, so please contact your GP if someone in your family has missed one. Visit coventry.gov.uk/immunisations

Digital drop-in in Libraries

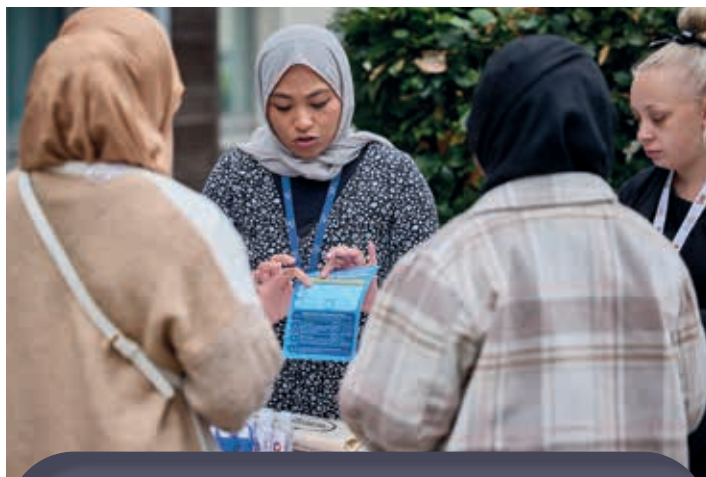
Do you need support with basic digital skills such as using a device for the first time, setting up an email, browsing the internet safely or accessing online services?

Digital Champions are friendly volunteers who can support you getting online in a safe environment. Digital champions hold 'digital drop-ins' in **Central Library** every **Tuesday** and **Saturday** between **10am and 12pm**.



Targeted help with cost of living

Many people are not aware of the support they may be entitled to, whether that be access to certain benefits (including, but not limited to Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance, Council Tax Support), advice around debt and rent arrears, free school meals and more.



Targeted support campaigns continue to be carried out by the Council, working with partner organisations and agencies including Central England Law Centre and Severn Trent.

It's a way of contacting residents to offer them all the types of costs of living support they may be entitled to.

If you receive a letter and have any concerns that it may be a scam please contact Coventry City Council on **0808 583 433**.

Further advice and support articles and useful links in relation to the cost of living can also be found by visiting coventry.gov.uk/costofliving



For any cost of living advice in Coventry visit coventry.gov.uk/costofliving

Worried about affording food?

Social Supermarkets offer heavily discounted food parcels, typically about £20 worth of food for a cost of a £5 membership. Find your nearest hub at coventry.gov.uk/costofliving and check the social supermarkets page.

Coventry Foodbank offer **FREE** support on **024 7699 3770**.

Household Support Fund help

The Household Support Fund is designed to be used to support households in the most need who would otherwise struggle with buying food and household essentials, and/or paying energy and water bills.

Call the Council on **08085 834 333** or visit coventry.gov.uk/householdsupportfund for an online request for help.

Film spotlight for more foster carers



FOSTER FOR COVENTRY

A new fostering film called 'Childhood' has been launched to raise awareness of the need for more foster carers and Coventry is playing its part.

In a ground-breaking national collaboration, 56 Local Authorities across England have worked together to share ideas and jointly fund the creation of a short film to raise awareness of fostering.

'Childhood', highlights the impact of neglect on children, particularly brothers and sisters who may be left at times to try and care for each other. It shows the journey of

'Sophie' and 'Charlie' from a very difficult home situation to eventually regaining their childhood.

Cllr Pat Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said:

"Sadly, it's as important as ever to get the message out as widely as possible that there is still a great need for foster carers, not only in our city but across the country."

»»»»» To view the film visit coventry.gov.uk/fostering



Funding hopes for family hubs

Coventry City Council has been selected to apply to join the national Family Hub and Start for Life Programme so it can expand its work and help even more people.

Coventry currently runs eight Family Hubs around the city to offer local support to residents.

They offer support to families with children of all ages up to 19 years, with services including learning support, infant feeding and parent/child relationships.

If successful the Council could secure a further £4m towards its family hub services over the next three years.

Cllr Patricia Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said:

"Our Family Hubs have been a great success and have helped so many people since they were introduced."

"We are very proud of our work to put families at the heart of all we do, and this is a chance for us to take the next step and help lead the way in family care and support."

Turning lives around

A social work team has been shortlisted for a prestigious, national award in recognition of its extraordinary practice.



Coventry City Council's Reunification Project has been selected as a finalist for Team of the Year in the annual Social Worker of the Year Awards.

The project started in June 2021 and has already

supported numerous children and young people to return to the care of their families.

The team is innovative, creative and has delivered lasting results, working with families to provide high quality tailored support.

Every child and young person who has been part of project has seen a major turnaround in their lives over the last year and every member of the team has gone above and beyond in working to help families make the changes that were needed.

New children's home

Councillors have backed plans to build a new children's home in the city.

It will allow children to live near their family, friends and support groups and continue their education while social workers investigate the best long-term approach.

Same day/short term care can be needed for a number of reasons, including where police are involved with a family and where a parent or carer is admitted to hospital as an emergency.

Cllr Patricia Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said:

"There is sometimes a need for swift action, where a child or young person needs to be taken out of the family situation that same day."

"By opening a new specialist home, we would be ensuring that children in need are given help when they need it, and in their own city."

Apprenticeships in Coventry

The Council offers apprenticeships in: Business Admin, Civil Engineering, Electrical Installation, Finance, Highways, Horticulture/Gardening, IT, Plumbing, P.E/School sports, Teaching, Vehicle Maintenance. For further information and vacancies, check www.coventry.gov.uk/apprenticeships you can also follow us on Instagram @apprenticeships_ccc.

Car fit for a princess

A car owned by Diana, Princess of Wales, that was believed to be a gift from King Charles III and a vehicle that helped to launch a range of Barbie toys can be seen for the first time in years at Coventry Transport Museum.



Harry Pearson gives Lady Diana's 1980 Austin Mini Metro a final clean

Thirty vehicles, many of which were made in Coventry, have been brought out of the museum's storage collection and can now be viewed in a space previously reserved for temporary exhibitions and events within the museum to all visitors to enjoy more of the collection.

The new gallery - **Behind the Scenes: Wheels and Workers** - which is now open, features a Coventry-made Jaguar XJS that became trapped in Bosnia in the 1990s and was later returned to the UK, painted bright pink and used as a prototype by Mattell to create Barbie's toy vehicle is included in the display.



Pictured L-R: Marguerite Nugent (Culture Director) and Megan Nass (Curator) Barbie car

www.transport-museum.com



Victorian themed Guildhall

Visit St Mary's Guildhall this December and discover dazzling decorations, twinkling trees and festive flourishes.

On **Saturday 26 November**, and on **3 and 10 December** join us for a special Victorian themed experience at St Mary's Guildhall.

The themed days include a **special one actor performance of highlights from Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol.**

Families can make magical memories with Father Christmas and enjoy a festive afternoon tea on **Sunday 4 and 11 December** in the **Tales of Tea** restaurant in the Undercroft of St Mary's Guildhall.

Advance booking required at www.stmarysguildhall.co.uk

Picture: Highlights from a Christmas Carol.

Remembering the fallen

Coventry is remembering those who made sacrifices and lost their lives in military conflicts at its Remembrance Sunday Service on **13 November** in the War Memorial Park.



For more details of this and of peace festival events visit www.coventry.gov.uk/peace

Community Christmas market set to land in Earlsdon

Community group, Earlsdon Street 2.0, which is made up of local businesses and residents is planning to bring Christmas cheer to the heart of Earlsdon this year with a festive market in December.

With some fantastic entertainment planned, including live music, and more than 30 stalls selling Christmas inspired gifts, plus lots of local food and drink, the festive markets are sure to bring the community together and celebrate everything that Earlsdon High Street has to offer.

The Christmas market will run from **4pm till 8pm on Thursday 8 December.**

There will be a road closure in place between the Royal Oak and Sage Café throughout each event, which has been agreed with Coventry City Council.

Dharmender Rai, a local resident who set up the Earlsdon Street 2.0 group, said:

"We've already had a brilliant response with a mix of businesses and community groups signing up to be involved and we'd really encourage more to join us."

For details visit cjseventswarwickshire.co.uk