

Dacorum is in a prime location for business. It offers accessibility to the city of London, the Midlands and the North through excellent transport links, along with the benefit of green and pleasant surroundings. We're committed to making the Borough even more attractive to investors in order to boost the local economy, create jobs and increase prosperity. We're working to improve the Borough by making the most of what's already here.

Who's responsible?



Cllr Stephen Holmes
Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration



Mark Gaynor
Corporate Director for Housing and Regeneration

- Revamp the planters in the town
- Plant trees along Bridge Street to help link the town centre with the Water Gardens

In the meantime, we've made some small changes in the town that are having a big impact. Popular works of art in the town centre have had facelifts, notably the cleaned up mosaic on the NCP car park and the four stonework panels on Marlowes junction with Bridge Street. The Water Gardens fountain is flowing again and the Residents' Rainbow, representing the optimism of the first residents of Hemel Hempstead New Town, has been re-tiled in bright glass tiles - a colourful and modern take on the original design.

Planning and development

We determined 1452 planning applications, an increase of 8% on 2009/10. These included 27 major applications, including proposals to regenerate Buncefield Oil Terminal and a large residential development on the Manor Estate, Apsley.

We provided Council land at Jarman Park for the new XC extreme sports and youth centre.



Last year (2010/11)



Hemel Hempstead Town Centre

We've consulted local people on different options for improving the town centre's shopping zone, to make it an area that even more people want to visit and enjoy. The most important projects they've identified are to:

- Create an outdoor food court
- Clear unnecessary street clutter and introduce a uniform style for furniture like signs, bins and seating.
- Improve the layout of market stalls, in a consistent colour and style to make better use of space.



Maylands Business Park

We've made improvements to the Business Park as set out in the Maylands Partnership's 'masterplan' for the area. We've created an attractive approach to the business park with resurfacing at the Phoenix Gateway roundabout and an attractive, display of colourful branded lamppost banners along Breakspear Way, that will be used throughout the business area to make business zone clear to visitors. We've also provided a 'pocket park', a relaxing retreat for workers in the centre of the business park.



Maylands Business Centre

We have opened and are managing a purpose built business centre helping business in Dacorum to thrive. The new centre in Hemel Hempstead is a place for businesses to meet, train and make contacts, as well as being an important start-up centre for small businesses that need to develop and grow. The low cost, flexible premises available at the centre include ten offices and 18 light industrial starter units to see new businesses through those crucial first years.

Plans for this year (2011/12)

- Pursue ambitions for a Local Enterprise Zone in Maylands, Hemel Hempstead to boost jobs and investment.
- Move forward with plans for the Heart of Maylands - redeveloping the area including the shops and facilities that serve Maylands Business Park.
- Make the chosen improvements to the Marlowes Shopping Zone in Hemel Hempstead - revitalising the town centre to create an area more attractive for businesses and that more people will want to visit and enjoy.
- Create a park in Apsley that will combine easier access to the area's lakes and canal with relaxing walks, meadows to encourage wildlife, and an exciting children's play area.