Celebrating Dacorum borough’s businesses.

We held an awards event to recognise the best of the borough’s businesses.

The 2018 Business Heroes - the companies who contribute the most to the community - were celebrated at the event at Little Hat Golf Club on Friday 19 July.

Residents and businesses across the borough nominated their favourite companies who have made a positive impact on the lives of others - shaping the future of economic growth in Dacorum.

The Rt Hon Sir Mike Penning MP presented the Business Heroes with their awards.

These were:
- Retail hero - Number Twenty
- Employment Hero - Indigo Tree
- Skills Hero - Dob CIC
- Business2Business Hero - Tring Together
- Environment Hero - Tring Brewery
- Business in the Community Hero - David Evans MBE
- Grass Roots and the Future Proof Enterprise Group

Six budding entrepreneurs were also presented with cheques after securing grant funding through our Dacorum’s Den scheme.

The businesses that were awarded funding of between £1,500 and £2,000 were:
- Song Writing 4 Kids.
- The Home County Candle Company.
- Phoenix Entertainment.
- The Crown Estate.
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- On the Road Travel.
- Grass Roots and the Future Proof Enterprise Group.

During the last financial year, we’ve seen Dacorum continue to grow as a vibrant borough where people want to live, work and play.

One of our main achievements over the past year has been our successful bid for funding as part of the Government’s Garden Communities Programme, in partnership with St Albans City and District Council, Hertfordshire County Council, The Crown Estate and Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Zone.

The proposed urban extension of Hemel Hempstead could deliver around 10,000 new homes and 10,000 new jobs for the area.

Last summer we officially opened our popular picnic park in Cadwell Park, following a £4m investment. This, together with the installation of new play equipment and an outdoor gym, has further enriched the park as a go-to destination for families.

During the last year we have invested in improving leisure facilities in Tring, through a £1.8m project to modernise Tring Leisure Centre. The project includes refurbishment of the swimming pool changing rooms, viewing area and reception.

We delivered 79 new council homes for people in housing need at Kefa Court, Hemel Hempstead. With 210 homes built to date, we are well on track to reach our target of 300 new homes by 2020.

We were also recognised for our commitment to preventing homelessness, when we became the first local authority in Hertfordshire and the Eastern Region to be awarded the National Practitioner Support Service (NPSS) Gold Standard.

We have continued to support our local business community through our Dacorum’s Den scheme.

Basketball fans will benefit from new, improved stands at Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre.

We’ve been working with Hemel Storm and Everyone Active to build new stands at the centre, which the award winning team hold their home games.

We have invested £112,000 in the new bleachers which has increased the crowd capacity for national basketball games to 639.

While the stands are being refurbished there will be restricted capacity for the team’s first games.

Storm Chairman Tony Humphrey said: “After a busy summer building a fantastic team, this news is the icing on the cake for the Storm’s first games.

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Championing sporting talent

Up-and-coming athletes in Dacorum have been given the opportunity to gain much-needed support as part of a sports development scheme.

Everyone Active’s Sporting Champions scheme is providing talented sport and young men and women with the facilities and funds needed to support their training and help them reach their full potential.

A number of local athletes have recently been recruited to the scheme at Berkhamsted Leisure Centre, Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre, Jarman Park Athletics track, Lutonian Sports Centre and Tring Sports Centre.

The athletes have been offered either gold, silver or bronze levels of support, all of which allow them access to Everyone Active’s 170 leisure facilities across the country, with the higher tiers also offering funding for training and competition costs.

Denise Silk, who competes in the modern pentathlon, has been given silver sponsorship alongside daughter Amy, Olympic silver medalist. Colin Jackson CBE, is continuing to support the scheme through his role as an ambassador.

Alongside some of Team GB’s top talent, he will play an integral part in providing both one-to-one and group mentoring opportunities to the athletes.

Over the past four years, Everyone Active’s Sporting Champions programme has invested more than £1 million to help over 700 athletes achieve success.

As well as local up-and-coming athletes, a strong line-up of Olympic and Paralympic athletes are supported by the scheme, including gold medal winning gymnast Max Whitlock, Team GB hockey captain Alex Danson and wheelchair racer Jade Jones.

To find out more about Everyone Active’s Sporting Champions programme, please visit www.esportingchampions.com.
Our performance in 2018/19

A clean, safe and enjoyable environment

- We responded to 1,337 fly-tipping reports within 07 DAYS.
- We collected 54,479 tonnes of waste and recycling from homes.
- Our recycling rate has increased to 52.3%.
- We responded to 98% of anti-social incidents within 24 hours.
- We held over 47,500 attendances at our adventure playgrounds.
- We attracted around £270m in private sector investment to the borough.
- We received the Park Mark accreditation for safety.
- We inspected 512 food premises - 392 achieved the top food hygiene rating.
- We supported community groups with almost £70k worth of funding.
- We processed over 4,091 new benefit claims.
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In the financial year 2019/2020 we will:

- Introduce two new Public Spaces Protection Orders to target anti-social behaviour and encourage responsible dog ownership.
- Provide £1.8 million investment to modernise Tring Swimming Pool and other facilities.
- Provide outreach services for those who live on the streets and street beggars through our £150,000 share of the Government’s Rough Sleeping Initiative Fund.
- Complete construction of the first new cemetery in 58 years providing cemetery provision for Dacorum for the next 30 years.
- Show continued support for our troops holding our fourth Armed Forces Day event for residents.
- Complete construction on the new multi-storey car park in Berkhamsted.
- Increase the opportunities for residents to become more active, working with our sports partners to deliver a Sports and Physical Activity Programme.
- Support the Herts Year of Culture 2020 Programme – putting the spotlight on arts, culture and heritage across Dacorum.
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- Support voluntary, sports and charity groups across the borough with our Community Grants awards scheme.
- Draft the new Local Plan and take forward to public consultation.
- Develop the Masterplan for the Hemel Garden Communities programme.
- Work with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to bring forward the Herts Innovation Quarter.
- Introduce a pre-application advice service for planning applications.
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