

ST HELENS BOROUGH LABOUR GROUP



JULY 2021 REPORT

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SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

With schools across the borough finishing for summer, St Helens Borough Council services are offering a range of free or affordable activities to keep children and young people occupied over the holidays.

Councillor Nova Charlton (pictured right), St Helens Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: *"As a parent myself, I know how difficult it can be to keep the kids entertained throughout the summer holidays – even more so given the past 18-months when they have had to sacrifice a lot – so it's important activities like these are available to them during this period to support with their development and wellbeing. One of our key priorities is to ensure all children have a positive start in life and providing activities like these in safe and secure environments play a big part in us achieving this."*

Find out more about what's on offer for children and families across the borough: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/07/14/council-announces-summer-activities-for-children/> and read about the summer activities in St Helens town centre recently announced: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/07/30/summer-events-programme-announced/>

LABOUR MAKING A STAND ON THE ISSUES THAT MATTER

At July's full council meeting Labour showed yet again that we're the only party standing up for communities on important issues.

The local Tories refused to attend, proving again it's one rule for them and another for everyone else, and Lib Dem, Green and 'independent' councillors may as well not have bothered as not a single one asked any questions or made any comments or suggestions.

Cllr Jeanie Bell and Cllr Mancyia Uddin brought and motion on Modern Slavery: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/07/22/modern-slavery/>; Cllr Trisha Long and Cllr Robyn Hattersley called for children and education to be given urgent and fair funding: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/07/22/children/>; and Cllr Richard McCauley and Cllr Derek Long stood up for residents in the face of dangerous Tory plans to centralise the planning process and deny local communities a voice: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/07/22/planning/>.



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MAJOR INVESTMENT IN BOROUGH'S ROADS

Motorists in St Helens can expect to see improvements made to the borough's roads over the next few weeks as St Helens Borough Council's highways programme for 2021/22 gets underway with a number of resurfacing works.

At a recent cabinet meeting, more than £6m in funding was approved by Labour councillors to improve the borough's highways network over the next year to help support growth opportunities in St Helens borough and the wider city region.

Labour Councillor Andy Bowden, St Helens Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, said: *"As a local highways authority, responsible for more than 480 miles of adopted highway, we know residents and businesses want to see improvements made to our road network, and we are committed to investing in this important asset."*

Read more: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/07/08/work-begins-on-6m-investment-in-boroughs-roads/>.

COUNCIL'S #STHELENSTOGETHER CAMPAIGN NOMINATED FOR TOP NATIONAL AWARD

The council's #StHelensTogether campaign, which saw council services work with other public and voluntary sector organisations to help vulnerable residents during the coronavirus pandemic, has been shortlisted in the 'community heroes' category at The MJ Achievement Awards 2021

The MJ Achievement Awards have been held every year since 2004, rewarding many officers, managers, teams and councils – with this year's awards receiving its highest ever amount of entries.

A wide range of residents have been supported by #StHelensTogether. More than 1,700 community volunteers have offered thousands of hours to support over 32,000 people, with more than 37,000 meals and food parcels provided – and a number of wellbeing calls made.

St Helens Borough Council Leader David Baines said: *"This nomination for our response to the pandemic through #StHelensTogether, and the Commendation for the Leadership team – most of whom have only joined the council in the last 18 months – is yet more evidence of the progress we're making at the council."*

"To achieve this progress at any time is challenging, but to do it during a pandemic is remarkable. Our staff are our greatest asset, and they deserve this recognition."



SPECIAL FEATURE:

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES, WORKERS, AND GROWTH

July was an important month for the local economy with several big announcements:

Plans to transform St Helens town centre received a major boost as it was announced that the ambitious **Town Deal** bid for regeneration funding was successful in winning up to £25m funding. The Board includes Council Leader David Baines, Cllr Richard McCauley – Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, and both our MPs Conor McGinn and Marie Rimmer, and will now begin work on producing business cases for each project in the Town Investment Plan: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/07/15/st-helens-wins-25m-towns-fund-bid/>

At Cabinet we published our **Economic Reset and Recovery Plan** for the borough. The plan aims to develop and support the borough's businesses to survive, adapt and thrive in the new economy; invest in people and skills; ensure major investments progress to secure inclusive growth; and maximise the opportunities of a green recovery to drive inclusive growth and transformation: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/07/16/labour-council-agree-new-economic-recovery-plan/>

Our local **Nightlife Aware Accreditation hospitality support scheme** was singled out for praise: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/07/23/st-helens-borough-hospitality-scheme-singled-out-for-praise/>

We hosted the latest **free-to-attend webinar for local businesses** on 22nd July to help the council listen and gain a better understanding of how we can further support local businesses and encourage people back safely to shop on their local high street: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/07/16/businesses-asked-to-have-their-say-on-high-street-recovery-in-virtual-forum/>

On 26th July we launched a **£500,000 grant scheme** to support businesses and help to develop business premises across St Helens and Earlestown town centres, offering small grants of up to £5,000 to help with smaller scale projects such as amendments and improvements to existing premises, and medium-sized grants up to £50,000 for bigger investments: <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/07/26/500000-support-scheme-launched-for-town-centres/>

And we highlighted the fantastic story of Thomas, a young autistic man from St Helens who has come in for high praise after thriving on the **Kickstart employment scheme** run by St Helens Borough Council (pictured on front page): <https://www.sthelenslabour.org/latest-news/2021/07/21/labour-councils-kickstart-programme-helping-young-people-into-work/>

Remember to keep up to date with exciting announcements and all the latest news by following us on social media @StHLabour and online at www.sthelenslabour.org



Kickstart Merseyside
Bouncing back and returning to business?
Thought about employing a talented local young person? Well we can help!!!



- Fully funded placements, for 6 months at 25 hours per week
- You receive funding to support training and equipment needs
- Full recruitment support
- A dedicated contact to support your business and the young person throughout
- Access to a range of other services

For more information, please email:
waystowork@sthelens.gov.uk
or call: 01744 676131.

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