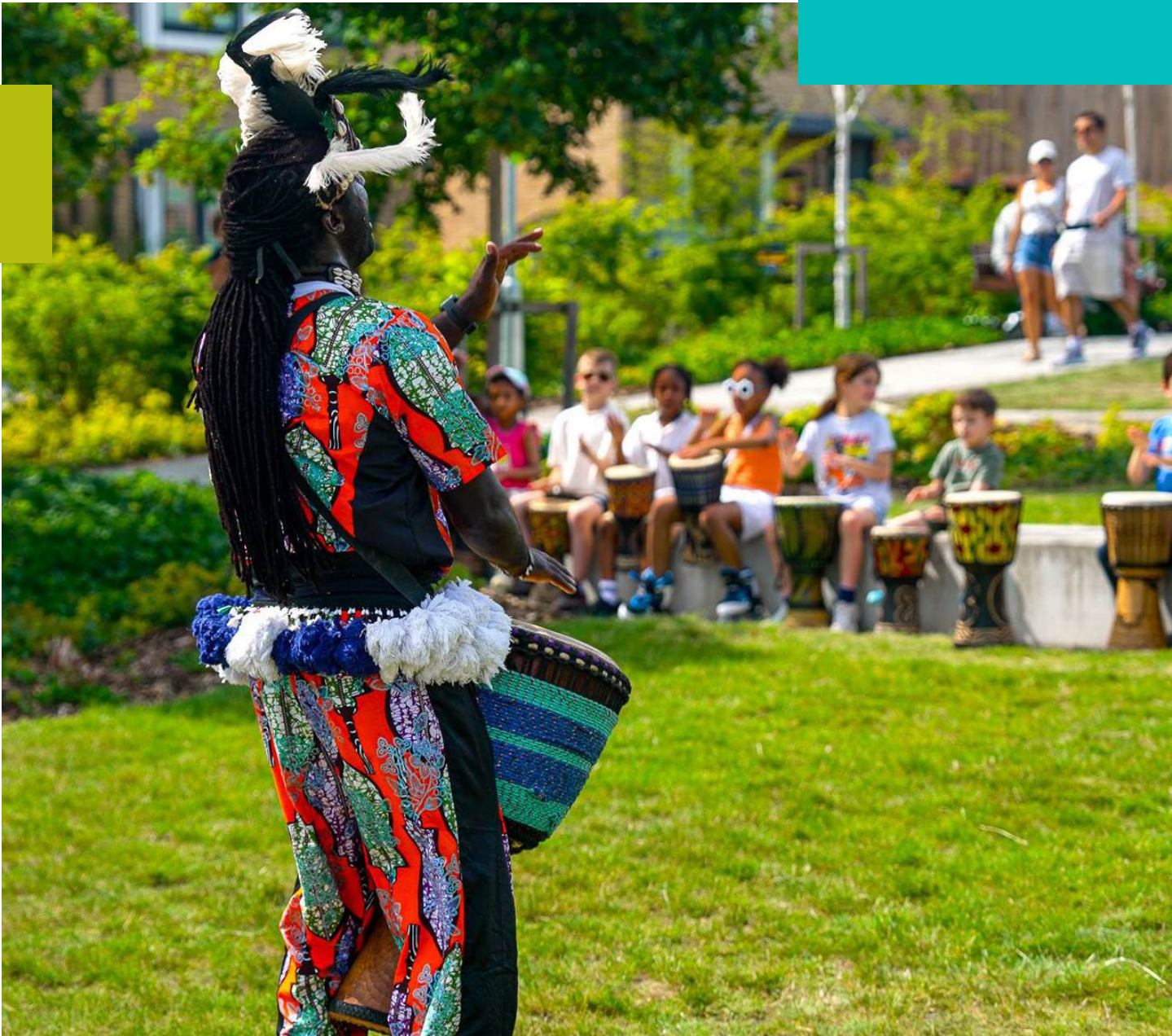




Ebbsfleet Living Summer 2026

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On the cover and above: Dubafrique, performing in Ebbsfleet this summer.

Established in 2014 by Moses Maingi Mutiso, a gifted choreographer and graduate of the Sarakasi Arts & Circus School in Kenya, Dubafrique fuses live music with dance, circus and authentic African djembe drums to create a full, thrilling African show experience.

Find out more: dubafrique.com

Summer in Ebbsfleet

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SUMMER IN EBBSFLEET

Welcome to the summer issue of Ebbsfleet Living Magazine.

Summer is in full swing in Ebbsfleet, with outdoor events, community activities and plenty of ways to enjoy the places and spaces around us.

More than 15,000 people now call Ebbsfleet home. With neighbourhoods, parks, schools and community spaces continuing to grow, this summer issue celebrates the people, places and opportunities helping shape everyday life across Ebbsfleet.

In this issue, you'll find local events, community stories, updates on new facilities, opportunities to get involved and plenty of ways to enjoy everyday life in Ebbsfleet.

DROP IN AND GET CONNECTED

We host regular drop-in sessions across the area. These are informal sessions where you can meet the team and ask questions about what's happening locally.

Come along to hear about events, explore ways to get involved, and get support for ideas or projects you'd like to bring to life.

Where to find us next:

9 September 2026 | Rosherville Primary School, Cable Wharf | 3pm to 5pm

7 October 2026 | The Blue Bean Café, Castle Hill | 9.30am to 11.30am



NEIGHBOURHOOD GATHERINGS

Join us on 16 October, 3 to 5pm at the Community Gardens at Springhead Park or 17 October, 1 to 3pm at Chimney View Park, Harbour Village.

Enjoy a relaxed community get-together with children's activities, hot and cold drinks and a tree and plant giveaway to support greener neighbourhoods across Ebbsfleet.

It's a great chance to meet your neighbours and find out more about what's on locally.

All residents are welcome and for any questions or to volunteer, please contact: hello@ebbsfleetdc.org.uk.



Ebbsfleet by numbers

15,000+

Ebbsfleet residents

30%

Affordable housing

16

Allotment gardens

5,300+

Homes completed

18

Minutes to St Pancras International

50

New homes completed on average each month

86%

Resident satisfaction

15

Playgrounds

18

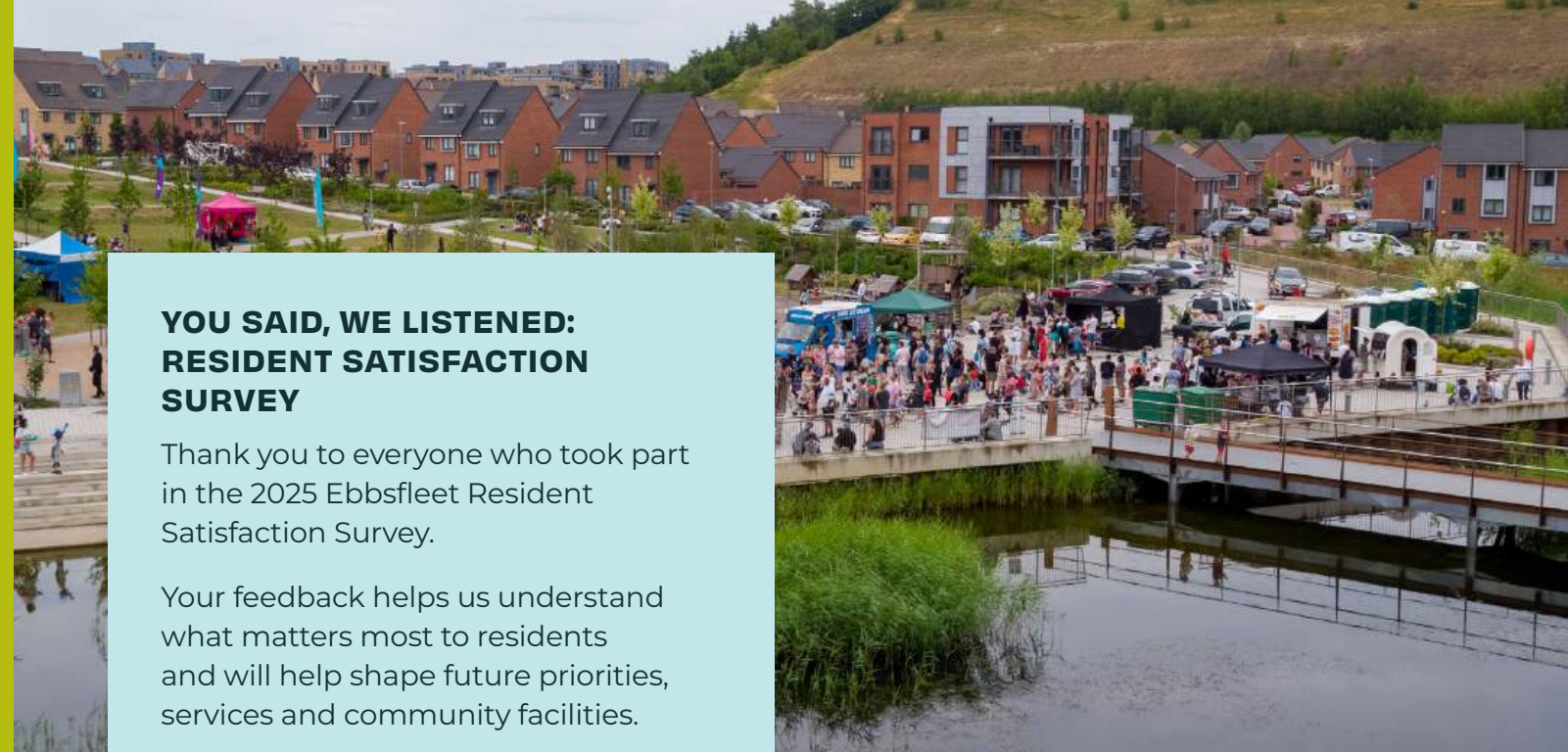
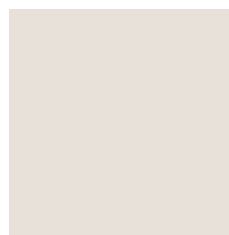
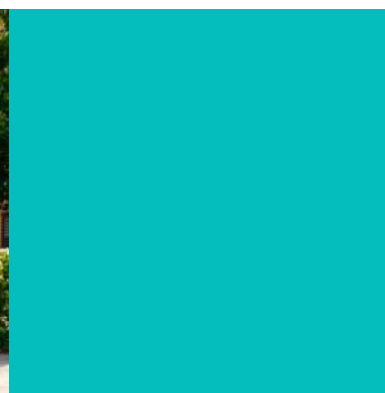
Parks

87%

Feel safe in their neighbourhood

82%

Feel a sense of belonging



YOU SAID, WE LISTENED: RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 2025 Ebbsfleet Resident Satisfaction Survey.

Your feedback helps us understand what matters most to residents and will help shape future priorities, services and community facilities.

The results highlighted strong levels of satisfaction, community belonging and positive views about life in Ebbsfleet.



View the results: ebbsfleetgardencity.org.uk/your-community.

See a short Youtube video: [@ebbsfleetliving 'EDC Resident Satisfaction Survey 2025'](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

We'll be running the survey again in autumn 2026 – look out for updates and opportunities to take part.

LEARN AND GET INVOLVED THIS SEPTEMBER

A new community development programme is launching this September, giving residents the chance to get more involved in shaping where they live. It's about building practical skills to identify issues that matter locally – and working with others to do something about them.

Whether you're already involved in community activities or just getting started, there are opportunities to learn and get involved.

You can drop into individual workshops, or work towards a fully funded Level 3 Award in Community Development. The programme will also support the launch of the Ebbsfleet-wide '1,000 Acts of Kindness' campaign, encouraging small actions that strengthen connection, pride and belonging across the community.

Sessions are flexible and designed to fit around work and everyday life – so it's easy to find something that works for you.

To find out more or get involved, contact: hello@ebbsfleetdc.org.uk.



Events and community life



Ebbsfleet is full of activity this summer, with events bringing people together in parks, public spaces and neighbourhoods. From food and culture to outdoor experiences, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

THE RETURN OF THE EBBSFLEET OUTDOOR CINEMA: SUNDAY 30 AUGUST 2026

Following the success of last year, join us for another evening of film under the stars. Delivered by local arts organisation Arts Point, keep an eye on our social channels for more information – and for your chance to help decide what's screened.

EBBSFLEET MARKET

The Ebbsfleet Market is a community-focused event funded by EDC, designed to bring residents together around local food, creativity and culture, and shaped by the people who live here.

The market features local food and street food, small businesses, makers and artists, live performances and activities.

It's held monthly on the third Saturday, from 10am to 4pm.

Interested stallholders, performers or volunteers can contact: hello@katyandthebear.com.

We have more events coming up in the autumn, including cycling confidence and repair sessions, creative writing, and health and wellbeing workshops – keep an eye on our website and social channels.



Places at the heart of local life

Across Ebbsfleet, new community spaces are becoming part of everyday life, giving residents more places to meet, take part in activities and spend time together.



WELDON HEART

Weldon Heart officially opened in April 2026 and is already becoming a lively part of local community life.

The launch event brought residents together for a day of activities, performances, food and family-friendly entertainment, creating a strong sense of community from day one.

Funded by EDC and designed as a welcoming local hub, the centre features a main hall and additional rooms available for community hire, providing flexible space for events and activities. A newly opened outdoor children's play area also gives families space to relax and enjoy time together.

Managed by Shanie Page, who also runs the on-site café, Weldon Heart has quickly become popular, with activities ranging from Pilates and soft play to dance classes and community meetings.

To find out more or book a space, visit: egctrust.org.uk/weldonheart.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE NEW COMMUNITY SPACE

"It's going to be amazing in the summer when the children all get to be together. It's a nice, friendly neighbourhood – everyone's like a big family."

"People in this estate were looking for a place like this, and they have finally got it. With the community centre inside, they can now have all the classes. It really helps the community. We are really looking forward to using it."

"We absolutely loved using the space at Weldon Heart for our Hartbeeps launch and are super excited to use the space each week to welcome families, caregivers and their little ones to our fun filled imaginative classes."

RESIDENT INSIGHT

As the founder of Grounded and manager of Weldon Heart, Shanie Page is helping bring the new community hub to life. We caught up with her to hear what brought her to Ebbsfleet and how residents have embraced the space since opening.



What first sparked your interest in running a café?

It's hard to pinpoint exactly, but I've always known what it feels like to walk into a genuinely welcoming café that serves great coffee – and I wanted to create that feeling for others. I felt a real pull to build something I, as a customer, would love to visit myself.

Grounded's vision has always been about blending the social side of a coffee shop with the sense of wellness and community you get from classes like yoga, Pilates or fitness, all under one roof. That's why the opportunity at Weldon Heart really stood out to me. It felt like a space where Grounded's ethos aligned with the Trust's values, and somewhere the concept could grow into both a café and a wellness hub.

What brought you to Ebbsfleet, and what made you feel at home here?

I was living in London before moving to Ebbsfleet, while my partner was based in Gravesend. As I was still commuting into London at the time, we needed somewhere with a quick and reliable connection, and with both of our families nearby in Dartford and Gravesend, it made sense.

What's really made it feel like home, though, is the community. There's such a supportive, friendly feel here. People know their neighbours, show up to local events, and there's a real sense of connection.

Since opening at Weldon Heart, what's been the biggest surprise?

The biggest surprise has been just how much the local community has been craving a space like this. I've also been amazed at how quickly things have come together, from building a full weekly timetable of activities to seeing how well our family events have been attended.

What have you noticed about how people are using the space so far?

It's been lovely to see how versatile the space is – it really does appeal to everyone. We've hosted everything from wellness and fitness classes to baby and toddler groups, but it's also become a place for people to celebrate.

We've had baby showers, gender reveals and children's parties, and it's quickly becoming a go-to space for all sorts of moments in the community.

When you think ahead, what do you hope this café and hub mean to local people?

I hope it continues to feel like a welcoming, go-to space where people feel excited about what's coming up next. I'd love for us to create events that become part of the community calendar – things people look forward to year after year.

More than anything, I hope it helps people build local connections and relationships, and becomes somewhere people genuinely feel part of.

WELDON WELLBEING PAVILION

The Weldon Wellbeing Pavilion officially opened on 1 June 2026, marking the arrival of a new space in Ebbsfleet designed to support everyday activity and wellbeing.

The opening saw residents, school groups and partners come together to explore the pavilion for the first time, with activity taking place across the 3G pitch, gym, studio and flexible indoor spaces.



RESIDENT QUOTE

"We've been looking forward to a facility like this opening. It's brilliant to have somewhere close to home where people of all ages can take part in sport, fitness and community activities."

The pavilion joins a growing network of community spaces across Ebbsfleet, giving residents more opportunities to stay active, connect with others and access activities close to home.

Chris Ashley, Regional Manager at Freedom Leisure, which operates the facility, said:

"Working closely with our partners and the local community, we will continue to shape and develop the Pavilion's products and services to reflect the needs and interests of those who use it. This is a fantastic facility, and we want to ensure everyone has the opportunity to benefit from everything it has to offer."

To keep up to date, visit: egctrust.org.uk/wellbeing-pavilion.



Springhead Park Community Garden and Allotments

The Springhead Park Community Garden and Allotments are already flourishing, with all 52 plots taken and a waiting list in place. Families are making the most of the space, with children helping to choose what to plant and watching things grow.

Neighbours are sharing ideas, tips and a love of gardening, while the Community Gardening Group work together to plant raised beds and manage the composting areas. With plenty happening across the site, it's fast becoming a vibrant community space.

Find out more or join the waiting list: egctrust.org.uk/allotment-form.



RESIDENT INSIGHT

Pawel, a resident of Ebbsfleet, told us about his move to the area and what led him to take on a plot at Springhead Park.

When did you first move to Ebbsfleet, and what brought you here?

We moved to Ebbsfleet at the end of 2019, timing it perfectly to spend the next 18 months being locked down within our own four walls! We were already local to Gravesend, so moving to Springhead Park felt like an upgrade without the drama of changing the kids' schools. We were originally drawn by plenty of greenery for the soul, the high-speed link to London for work, and the A2 for everything else. It's the perfect spot, close enough to the action, but quiet enough to actually hear yourself think.

What first drew you to getting an allotment at Springhead Park?

It started as a survival tactic! During the 2020 lockdowns, after seeing people battle over the last pack of pasta, we decided to turn our back garden into a mini-farm. We started simple, but once we ran out of patio space, we realized we needed a bigger stage for our agricultural ambitions. We waited patiently on the reserved list, dabbled in the Community Garden, and then, just a week before the grand opening, Plot 38 called our name!

As someone who works in IT, I spend my life building things you can't actually touch. There is a massive satisfaction in building something physical that doesn't require a software update or a password reset. Plus, it was a 'bribery' project for my 11-year-old; I wanted to swap his screen time for sunshine.

What do spaces like this bring to the local area?

Community, sanity, and a lot of shared confusion! Modern life tends to keep us tucked away indoors, but the allotments have forced us out into the wild to meet our neighbours.

The best part? About 90% of us have absolutely no idea what we are doing. We are all just winging it together, swapping tips, sharing tools, and staying remarkably jolly while we try to figure out which end of the leek goes in the ground. It's local spirit at its best.

What's your favourite thing about being here?

It's the ultimate 'sweet spot.' We're surrounded by enough greenery to forget we're near a city, yet I can be in Central London before I've even finished my coffee. Having a Sainsbury's a five-minute walk away is a lifesaver for when my homegrown harvests don't quite meet the dinner requirements, and having great schools and motorway links right on the doorstep makes life incredibly easy. It's a modern village vibe with a high-speed heartbeat.

You can also follow Pawel and his family's allotment journey on YouTube at [@Plot38](https://www.youtube.com/@Plot38).

Park activities to keep you moving

PARKRUN

Whitecliffe Lake parkrun is a friendly, free weekly 5k that takes place every Saturday at 9am at Whitecliffe Lake, Castle Hill, Ebbsfleet Valley. It's open to everyone, whatever your pace or experience, and is a great way for the community to get outdoors, stay active and start the weekend together.

Once you're finished, why not head to Blue Bean Café for a relaxed post-parkrun coffee and a chat?

Find out more and register before your first parkrun: parkrun.org.uk/whitecliffelake.

Looking for ways to stay active this summer? Ebbsfleet's parks and open spaces offer plenty of opportunities to get moving, meet people and enjoy the outdoors.



GET ACTIVE IN EBBSFLEET

PARK TENNIS

When | Sundays 10am to 11am
Where | Castle Hill Tennis Courts

Free activity, sign up required using the link below.

Start your Sunday with a burst of energy and a friendly community atmosphere. Park Tennis is a relaxed, welcoming programme designed to help people of all ages stay active, build confidence, and enjoy the game – whether you're picking up a racket for the first time or getting back into the swing of things.

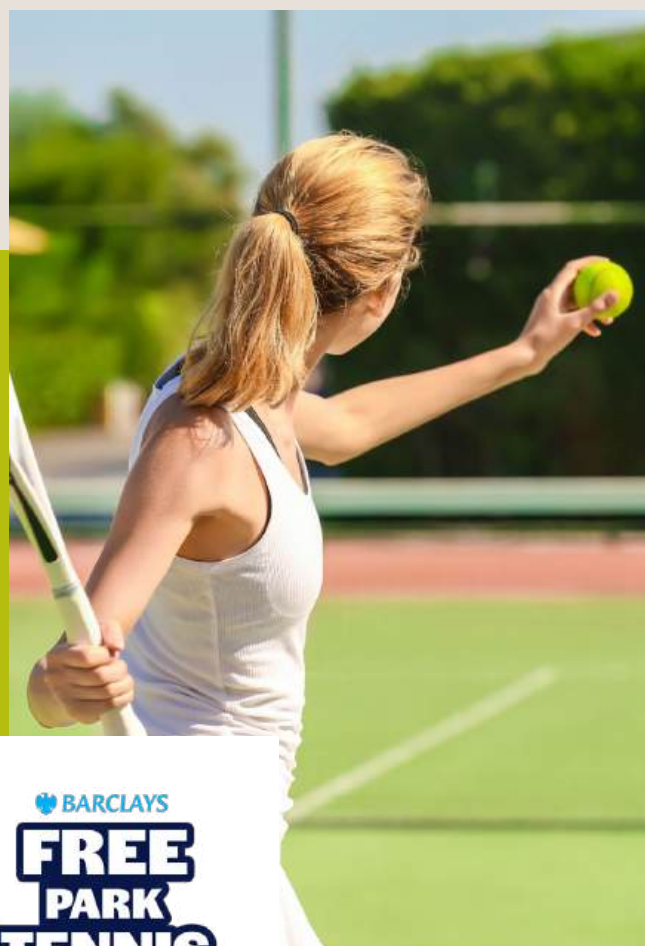
Come along, get moving, and enjoy a fun start to your Sunday. Everyone is welcome.



Scan the QR code to book and find out more.

For more information visit: lta.org.uk/play/free-park-tennis.

Get in touch via: hello@ebbsfleetdc.org.uk or ebbsfleetgardencity.org.uk.



Nature and green spaces in Ebbsfleet

Ebbsfleet's natural environment is an important part of everyday life – shaping how people explore, move and connect with where they live.

EXPLORE YOUR LOCAL GREEN SPACES WITH THE EBBSFLEET GREENMAP

The Ebbsfleet GREENmap is an interactive tool that helps residents explore and understand the natural environment across the garden city - from trees and wildlife to waterways and green spaces.

More than just a map, it shows how nature and neighbourhoods are growing side by side, and how everyday actions can support local biodiversity.

DID YOU KNOW?

The GREENmap includes over 5,000 mapped trees across Ebbsfleet.



GET INVOLVED

The GREENmap is shaped by local people, helping build a picture of the plants, wildlife and green spaces that make Ebbsfleet unique.

How you can take part

Help update the map by sharing what you see outdoors:

- Mapping trees in your street or local park
- Recording wildlife sightings such as birds, insects or small mammals
- Adding notes and photos of green spaces you come across

To find out more and explore the GREENmap, visit: ebbsfleetgardencity.org.uk/ebbsfleet-green-map.



Project Spotlight: Alkerden Hub

Whitecliffe is growing quickly, with more than 2,500 homes across the Castle Hill, Alkerden and Ashmere villages, and many more on the way. As the community expands, new spaces and services are needed to support everyday life and help the area develop as a connected neighbourhood.



BRINGING SERVICES TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE

We have been working with the landowner and master developer, Eastern Quarry Limited, to bring forward new community facilities at Alkerden Market Centre, next to the new Academy school in the heart of Whitecliffe.

Following engagement with local groups, the council and organisations that will help run services in the building, a landmark civic building is proposed. It will bring a range of services together in one place, supporting learning, health and wellbeing, while also offering training opportunities for local people.

WHAT THE HUB WILL OFFER

The Alkerden Hub will provide a wide range of community and health services within a high-quality four-storey building.

The building will be fully accessible, with inclusive facilities so it can be used easily by everyone in the community. Sustainability is a key part of the design, with energy-efficient systems and materials that help reduce environmental impact and running costs over time.

At its centre, a café will offer a welcoming space to meet, work or relax. A community hall will provide space for events, performances and multi-faith groups, while flexible studio rooms will support local activities and classes.

Kent County Council will also deliver key community services from the building, making support easier to access locally. Alongside this, Dartford & Gravesham NHS Hospital Trust plans to run a healthcare facility focused on children's health.

PLANNING AND NEXT STEPS

Following approval of planning permission in October 2024, final detailed design work is underway before a contractor is appointed to build the facility.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Alkerden Hub is expected to open in 2028. Once complete, Ebbsfleet Garden City Trust will help ensure it remains accessible, sustainable and affordable, supporting the community for years to come.

Building awareness of careers in the local area

In classrooms across Dartford and Gravesham, groups of students are sketching ideas for new places in Ebbsfleet – from dog-friendly spaces with wash stations, treats and a doggy nursery, to sensory areas for people with neurodiversity, play spaces for toddlers, and bird-watching spots for nature lovers. The ideas are imaginative, practical, and often full of fun, showing how differently young people think about the spaces around them.

EBBSFLEET CENTRAL WORKSHOP

These ideas come from the Ebbsfleet Central Workshop, part of a wider education outreach programme led by EDC and delivered with secondary schools and further education providers across Dartford and Gravesham. Nearly 650 students from five schools took part across the summer term.

Working in groups, students are given a section of the Ebbsfleet Central regeneration area and a 'persona' to design for, helping them think about how different people might use a place



This results in a wide range of ideas that bring the area to life in unexpected ways.

INSPIRING FUTURE CAREERS

Alongside this, EDC's wider outreach programme includes careers fairs, assemblies, workshops, site visits and hands-on sessions in schools and colleges across the area.

The aim is to highlight the range of careers involved in shaping places like Ebbsfleet – from design, engineering and surveying to planning, environmental and other built environment roles - and help more young people see the paths open to them in the future.

Leadership in focus



As Ebbsfleet continues to grow, leadership is helping shape how the place develops for the people who live, work and spend their time here.

We spoke to Dr David Prout, Chair of EDC, about his views on Ebbsfleet today, his experience of delivering major national infrastructure projects alongside its development, and the appointment of new Chief Executive Sara Waller.

What is the current scale of growth in Ebbsfleet, and how is the Development Corporation supporting that growth?

Over 15,000 residents already live in Ebbsfleet and its surrounding communities, with a new secondary school about to open, three primary schools and an increasing number of community facilities. Our job at the Development Corporation is to keep building new homes with all the facilities that are necessary to continue to grow a thriving new garden city.

As Chair of EDC, how does your experience overseeing Ebbsfleet compare with your previous work delivering major national planning and infrastructure projects?

All big projects are difficult to deliver. Ebbsfleet has made a great start over the last 10 years and now has over 5,000 homes. As with all big projects, the major challenge is to build on the momentum of the last 10 years, stay true to the original guiding vision of a beautiful garden city and not shy away from the really difficult job of starting to build the new town centre around the train station.

Sara Waller has recently been appointed Chief Executive of EDC. What do you see as her priorities in the role, and what might residents notice first?

We are really lucky to have Sara as our new chief executive. She brings with her a wealth of development experience and expertise. Her priorities are to keep building new homes, stay true to the garden city vision, continue to build the sense of community and get started on the new town centre.

We'll be hearing from Sara in a future edition as she shares her thoughts on Ebbsfleet's next chapter.



Life in Ebbsfleet

Everyday life in Ebbsfleet and the surrounding communities, shaped by local stories, history and community activity.

RESIDENT QUOTE

"I think living in the Weldon neighbourhood is really very nice because the community and the people are very welcoming. I can leave my children where they can play safely. That is what I love most."

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW EBBSFLEET?

(answers at the bottom of this page)

Q1: What does Ebbsfleet get its name from?

- A) A Roman emperor
- B) A historic river
- C) A medieval castle

Q2: Roughly how many homes had been built in Ebbsfleet by early 2026?

- A) 1,200
- B) 5,280
- C) 12,000

Q3: What is Swanscombe Peninsula best known for?

- A) A protected natural area with marshes, birds and rare wildlife living in a riverside habitat
- B) An area being designed for parks, play areas and places for people to relax
- C) A riverside neighbourhood where homes and local services have already been built

Answers | Q1: B, Q2: B, Q3: A

SWANSCOMBE'S ANCIENT FIND

Did you know that some of the oldest human remains ever discovered in Britain were found in Swanscombe? Three skull fragments, dating back around 400,000 years, were uncovered at nearby Barnfield Pit. The remains are often referred to as the "Swanscombe Woman", and a replica is on display at Swanscombe Leisure Centre.



DID YOU KNOW?

Many of Ebbsfleet's road names reflect the area's history and transformation from landscape to community. For example, Bessemer Way is named after Sir Henry Bessemer, whose work helped shape modern steel production, reflecting North Kent's industrial heritage.

NEXT ISSUE

Tell us what you enjoy most about living here - it could be a favourite local place and why it matters to you, or something positive you've noticed changing in the area as it continues to grow. Please send your thoughts to: hello@ebbsfleetdc.org.uk.



Ebbfleet Living Summer 2026



For further information, please get in touch with the team:
hello@ebbsfleetdc.org.uk or www.ebbsfleetgardencity.org.uk

  @ebbsfleetgardencity

 /ebbsfleetgardencity